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JOURNAL

OF THE

HISTORICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL

SOCIETY OF OHIO.

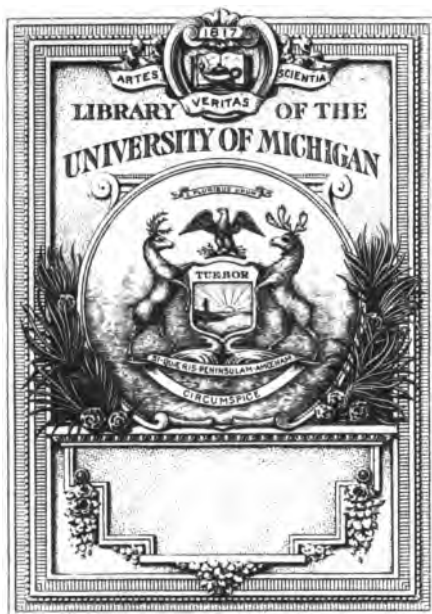
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JOURNAL

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## PREFACE.

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In presenting to the public this first number of the "JOURNAL OF THE HISTORICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF OHIO," it may not be inappropriate to state the object of its institution.

A great part of the early history of this State must necessarily be gathered from those who were pioneers in a wilderness, which is now the abode of civilized men. The venerable remnant of those who are the only depositories of most that will be interesting in our early history is fast passing away; the written records which have been left are brief, in comparison with the great mass of living testimony which can be gathered up in every corner of our land. To effect this object, to gather together a history in detached parts, which, when united, would be complete, was the aim of those who were forward in bringing this Society into existence.

The Civil and Political History of this State was not, however, the only object of research; its Natural History, the development of its mineral treasures, and the collection of all facts connected with the labors of a

race now extinct, were also objects deemed worthy of attention.

This Society was incorporated in February, 1831; and its first Annual Meeting was held on the 31st of December following—at which meeting, By-laws were established for its government, and officers were elected to manage its affairs. The first President of this Society was the Hon. BENJAMIN TAPPAN, a gentleman as well known for his extensive Literary and Scientific acquirements, as for his profound knowledge as a Lawyer and his able course as a Jurist.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the President, as well as of the Curators of this Society, to enlist in its behalf the aid of gentlemen eminently qualified, in different sections of the State, to assist in carrying its views into operation, little has heretofore been done, either to advance its interest, or add to its usefulness. The Curators are happy, however, to find that their solicitations for aid within the past year have not been entirely disregarded; and that several gentlemen are preparing documents relative to the early history of particular sections of the State, which will hereafter appear in the Journal of the Society.

A few years only have passed since Ohio was considered solely an agricultural State; it was not then known that her mineral treasures were ultimately to constitute a considerable portion of her wealth; her rich beds of iron ore and mineral coal are now known to be almost inexhaustible; and within her borders there are already not less than thirty blast furnaces in successful operation, supplying this great country with every article of

iron needed for domestic purposes, or used in the extensive manufactories of the West.

The Geological Survey which is now progressing under the direction of our State Legislature, will doubtless be attended with the most beneficial results; and we anticipate that this Society will be furnished, by the gentlemen constituting that board, with much valuable information respecting the Natural History of the State, its fossil remains and mineral resources, as well as a more connected and interesting view of the "Ancient Works," which are abundantly spread over every part of our State: the history of which constitutes one of our most interesting inquiries. From recent developments we are induced to believe that a key will yet be found to unlock the deep mystery, which at present envelops these monuments of a people who have long since passed away, and whose memory, even, has faded from tradition.

We hope we are not too sanguine in anticipating for this Society extensive aid. We do not believe there is a citizen who is not deeply interested in its success; for it is identified with the honor of the State in which they live. May we not hope that the march of this Society will, in future, be onward, and that at no distant period, the *Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio* will stand second to no similar institution, in the interest which her collections will excite in the minds of an intelligent community.





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ACT OF INCORPORATION  
OF THE  
Historical and Philosophical Society  
OF OHIO,

PASSED FEB. 11, 1831.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio*, That Benjamin Tappan, John C. Wright, and Dr. John Andrews, of Steubenville, Arius Nye, and Dr. S. P. Hildreth, of Marietta; Appleton Downer, Dr. T. Flanner, and E. Buckingham, of Zanesville; Thomas James, B. G. Leonard, and James T. Worthington, of Chillicothe; Gustavus Swan, John M. Edmiston, Alfred Kelley, and Dr. Benjamin Platt, of Columbus; Joseph Sullivant, of Franklinton; Dr. E. Cooper, of Newark; R. H. Bishop, Thomas Kelley, and James M'Bride, of Butler county; Dr. J. Cobb, Dr. Elijah Slack, N. Longworth, John P. Foote, and Timothy Flint, of Cincinnati; John Sloane, of Wayne county; Jared P. Kirtland, of Trumbull county; Samuel Wheeler, of Geauga county; Ebenezer Lane, of Huron county; and William Wall, of Athens; and such other persons as may, from time to time become members, shall be, and are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, by the name of *the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio*—and by that name they shall have perpetual succession; and shall be capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, answering and being answered unto, defending and being defended, in all courts and places

whatsoever, and may have a common seal, with power to change or alter the same from time to time; and shall be capable of purchasing, taking, holding, and enjoying, to them and their successors, any real estate in fee simple or otherwise, and any goods, chattels, and real and personal estate, or any part thereof, at their will and pleasure: *Provided always*, That the clear annual value or income of such real and personal estate shall not exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars: *Provided moreover*, That the funds of the said corporation shall not be used and appropriated to the purpose of banking.

SEC. 2. That the said Society shall, from time to time, forever, hereafter, have power to make, constitute, ordain, and establish, such by-laws and regulations as they shall judge proper for the election of their officers; for prescribing their respective functions, and the mode of discharging the same; for the admission of new members; for the government of the officers and members thereof; for collecting annual contributions from the members thereof; for regulating the time and place of meeting of the said society; for suspending or expelling such members as shall neglect or refuse to comply with the by-laws or regulations; and for the managing and directing the affairs and concerns of the said Society: *Provided*, Such by-laws and regulations be not repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States.

SEC. 3. That the officers of said Society shall consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and five Curators, and such other officers as the society may judge necessary, who shall be annually chosen, and who shall continue in office for one year, or until others shall be elected in their stead; that if the annual election shall not be held at any of the days for that purpose appointed, it shall be lawful to make such election at any other day; and that five members of the said Society,

assembling at the place and time designated for that purpose by any by-laws or resolution of the Society, shall constitute a legal meeting thereof.

SEC. 4. That any five persons named in the first section of this act, shall have power to call a meeting of said Society for the election of their officers, and the transaction of such other business as may be necessary and proper, to carry into effect the design and objects of said corporation, by giving two months' notice in some newspaper printed at Columbus, of the time of such meeting: such meeting to be holden at Columbus.

JAMES M. BELL,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

SAMUEL R. MILLER,

*Speaker of the Senate.*



BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
Historical and Philosophical Society  
OF OHIO,

ORDAINED AND ESTABLISHED

At a Regular Meeting of said Society, held at Columbus,

DECEMBER 31, . D. 1831.

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ARTICLE I.

ELECTIONS AND MEETINGS.

SEC. 1. The annual election of the officers of this Society, after the first election, shall be held at the place of holding its regular meetings, on the Saturday succeeding the third Monday of December, and such election shall be by ballot; and a majority of all the votes given shall be necessary to a choice. Each officer elected shall receive a certificate of his election, under the seal of the Society, signed by the President for the time being, and countersigned by the Recording Secretary: *Provided however*, That if on the aforesaid day of election, a *quorum* should not be present, or being present should deem it advisable to postpone such election, then, in either case, the election shall be held on any day, not exceeding one week thereafter.

SEC. 2. There shall be an annual meeting or session of the Society held in Columbus, on the Saturday succeeding the third Monday of December, which may continue its sittings



by adjournment from day to day, or to any subsequent day, as the business or convenience of the Society may require; and the Board of Curators may at any time, when in their opinion it may be necessary for the interest of the Society, call an extra meeting, giving notice of the time and object of such meeting, in two newspapers published at the seat of government of this State, by four successive publications, commencing eight weeks before the day of such meeting, and by one publication the week preceding said day.

SEC. 3. At all meetings of this Society, five members shall be necessary to constitute a *quorum* to transact business; but three shall be sufficient to open or adjourn a meeting when a *quorum* does not attend.

## ARTICLE II.

### THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS.

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Society, when present; to sign the journals of each meeting; sign all commissions, diplomas, and certificates, except when it may be otherwise directed; and generally to discharge all duties appertaining to his office as the President of said Society.

SEC. 2. In the absence of the President, the First Vice President shall discharge all his duties; and in the absence of the President and the First Vice President, the Second Vice President shall discharge the duties of President: And in case of the absence of the President and both Vice Presidents, at any meeting of the Society, a President *pro tem.* shall be chosen *viva voce.*

SEC. 3. The President and both the Vice Presidents shall, *ex-officio*, be members of the Board of Curators.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to take charge of, and conduct all the correspondence of the Society, either foreign or domestic, under the direction of the Board of Curators, and at all times subject to the instruction and supervision of the Society: of all which he shall keep a full and fair record.

SEC. 5. The Recording Secretary shall keep a complete and faithful record of all proceedings of the Society; and at

each session thereof, read the journal of the session preceding; and, at the opening of the meeting, on each day of every session, read the minutes of the day preceding, that all omissions may be supplied, and all errors corrected. He shall also take charge of, and keep in a state of preservation and security, all books, documents, papers, works of art or science, articles of curiosity, and all other matters and things belonging to the library, cabinet, or archives of the Society; subject to account therefor to the Board of Curators, or to the Society, whenever required.

SEC. 6. The Recording Secretary shall procure a seal for the Society, of such material and form, and with such devices, as the Board of Curators shall direct; and shall keep and preserve the same for the use and purposes of the Society, as may be directed.

SEC. 7. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys and funds of the Society, and keep an accurate and full account thereof, and pay out or disburse the same on the order of the President, or either of the Vice Presidents, countersigned by the Recording Secretary, as the Society may authorize or direct: and he shall, at each annual session, on the first day thereof, and at all other times when required, render a full account of the receipts and expenditures of the Society, during the year preceding.

SEC. 8. The Treasurer shall, whenever required by the Society, or by the Board of Curators, give bond with security, to be approved by the said Board of Curators, in such sum, and in such form as they may direct—conditioned for the faithful keeping, and accounting for the moneys and funds of said Society, and the honest discharge of all the duties of his office; and if he neglects for ten days, after being required to give bond, the office of Treasurer shall be considered as vacant, and he be no longer entitled to hold or discharge the duties of the same.

SEC. 9. It shall be the special duty of Board of Curators at all times to watch over the concerns and interests of the Society; to propose to the Society appropriate subjects for inquiry and research, and suggest the best means of advancing the purposes of the Institution. They shall likewise, (until other provision be made), superintend all publications

and purchases which shall be directed or ordered by the Society. They shall also, every year, select some of the members to pronounce before the Society, at its annual session, a discourse or lecture, on some literary, scientific, historical, or philosophical subject, connected with the design or objects of this institution. In all their transactions as a Board of Curators, three members shall be sufficient to constitute a *quorum*.

SEC. 10. Whenever a vacancy shall happen in the office of Corresponding Secretary; Recording Secretary, Treasurer, or Curator, by death, removal, resignation, or otherwise, the Board of Curators shall appoint a suitable member to fill the same until the next annual election.

### ARTICLE III.

#### THE ORDER OF TRANSACTING BUSINESS.

SEC. 1. So soon as a *quorum* shall have assembled at any meeting, the presiding officer shall assume the chair, and call the meeting to order. The names of the members shall then be called by the Recording Secretary, and those who answer shall be entered on the journal: after which, the minutes of the preceding session or meeting shall be read. Reports from the Board of Curators, from the officers and from committees, shall then be called for and read successively in their order and disposed of. Resolutions and motions shall next be received, which shall always be in writing, and signed by the member offering the same, except motions to adjourn, or motions relating to business already before the meeting; after which, it shall be in order to call up any other business before the Society.

SEC. 2. When any call for the yeas and nays upon any question shall be made, and sustained by five members present, the vote shall be taken thereon by yeas and nays, and the same shall be recorded.

### ARTICLE IV.

#### ELECTION AND ADMISSION OF MEMBERS, ETC.

SEC. 1. The act of incorporation and the by-laws of this Society shall be written in a book provided and kept for that

purpose, by the Recording Secretary; and every member (honorary members excepted) shall sign his name in said book, with the addition of his age and place of residence within one year after his election: and on his failure so to do, he shall be considered as declining the invitation given to him by his election, to become a member of the Society; and the Recording Secretary shall report the name of each person elected and so declining, to the next meeting of the Society: *Provided*, That any member elect, may notify his acceptance by letter to the Recording Secretary, who shall thereupon enter the name of such member in said book, which shall be considered the same as written by himself.

SEC. 2. The Board of Curators only shall have the right of nominating new members; but any member of the Society may suggest to the Curators the name of any gentleman as a suitable person to become a member; and the Curators shall thereupon inquire and satisfy themselves of the propriety of admitting such person, and shall propose him to the Society or not, as they may be advised: But, if they omit to propose such person to the next meeting of the Society, after his name shall have been suggested as aforesaid, it shall be competent for any member to move his admission by resolution and recommendation in writing, upon which, he may be admitted or rejected as in other cases: *Provided*, That a vote of two-thirds of the members present shall be necessary to the admission of any member.

SEC. 3. No person shall be admitted a member of this Society who is not a resident of the State of Ohio, and twenty-one years of age at the time of admission: *Provided however*, That persons distinguished for their talents, knowledge, service, or worth in any part of the world, may be propounded and admitted honorary members, in the same manner as other members are admitted; and shall thereupon be entitled to a seat in the meetings of the Society and be permitted to speak, but not to vote on any question.

SEC. 4. On the election of any person, as a corporate member of this Society, it shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to forward to him a notice of his election, with a respectful invitation to accept a copy of the act of incorporation and by-laws.

SEC. 5. Whenever a member shall have signed his name, or the same is entered, as required by the first section of this article, he shall be entitled to receive from the Recording Secretary, a *diploma*, in form and style, such as the Board of Curators shall direct: And on the election of any person as an honorary member, the Recording Secretary shall forward to him a similar diploma (whose form and style shall also be prescribed by the Curators), with a copy of the act of incorporation and by-laws.

SEC. 6. The death of every member of this Society shall be entered by the Recording Secretary, whenever he is advised thereof, in the book in which the corporate members are required to sign their names, with the time and place of his death, and his age; and make report of the same to the next meeting of the Society.

## ARTICLE V.

### SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS.

SEC. 1. Any member may be suspended or expelled for neglecting or refusing to comply with the by-laws and regulations of this Society, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting: *Provided*, Articles of impeachment be filed by a corporate member with the Recording Secretary, accompanied with due and proper specifications, and a copy thereof be served upon the party accused, at least sixty days before such meeting.

## ARTICLE VI.

### THE MODE OF RAISING FUNDS, ETC.

SEC. 1. Each corporate member of this Society shall, on his admission, pay to the Treasurer the sum of two dollars, for the use of the Society, and until such payment be made, he shall not be entitled to exercise or enjoy any of the rights or privileges of a member; and shall thereafter, also, pay to the Treasurer, for the use of the Society, on or before the Saturday succeeding the third Monday of December annually, the sum of two dollars; and shall also be subject to pay such further sums as may from time to time be assessed upon him

by the Society, at any of its regular meetings; *Provided*, That no such assessments shall be made at any meeting, unless previous notice thereof shall have been given by the Board of Curators, in at least two newspapers printed at the seat of government of the State, for at least two months before such meeting.

SEC. 2. The Curators, as well as all other officers and members, are authorized to receive gifts, gratuities and donations of money, books, articles of curiosity, or other property for the Society; which shall be deposited with the Treasurer or Recording Secretary, who shall respectively make report thereof to the next regular meeting.

SEC. 3. No officer or member of this Society shall receive any fee or pecuniary compensation for his personal services in any office, agency, or duty he may be required to perform by the by-laws or regulations thereof, unless in cases that may be otherwise specially provided for; but each officer and member shall be entitled to be reimbursed for all expenditures he may be required to make in the discharge of any duty assigned to him.

# OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY,

FOR 1838.

---

*President,*

HON. J. BURNET.

*Vice Presidents,*

HON. E. LANE, HON. J. C. WRIGHT.

*Recording Secretary,*

P. B. WILCOX, Esq.

*Corresponding Secretary,*

J. DELAFIELD, Jr. Esq.

*Treasurer,*

J. B. THOMPSON, M. D.

*Curators,*

ARIUS NYE, Esq., J. RIDGEWAY, JR., Esq.,

R. THOMPSON, M. D.,

J. S. SULLIVANT, Esq., J. W. ANDREWS, Esq.

# ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE SOCIETY,

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING, HELD IN COLUMBUS, DECEMBER 22, 1832.

BY BENJAMIN TAPPAN,

President of the Society, and President of the Board of Canal Commissioners.

---

GENTLEMEN—

*Of the Historical and Philosophical Society :*

Having been invited by the Board of Curators, under the regulation of the ninth section of the second article of our by-laws, to discourse before the Society at this, its annual meeting, upon some subject, "connected with the designs and objects of this Institution," it seems to me, that before any particular subject can, with propriety, be selected for discussion, it is necessary to inquire—what are those *designs and objects*? Our charter and by-laws are nearly silent as to this ; and except in the title to the act of incorporation, we have no indication of what was the design, or what were the special objects of incorporating this Society. This inquiry may be useful (if the views taken should meet your approbation) as a guide to our future labors.

The unexampled celerity with which our people had changed this State, from an uncultivated wilderness,



the favorite abode of the wild hunter untamed, and as yet untamable—to cultivated fields, rich with all the gifts of Ceres and Pomona; to villages, to towns, and to the thronged and populous city, possessed by an industrious, intelligent, and thriving population; a population, too, aggregating and increasing beyond all former experience, even in America—had created the wish that at least the materials for an authentic history of so great a change might be collected and preserved, if not written and published, before those who had been actors in this splendid drama of life should have passed from the stage. That this might be effected by united effort, application was made to the Legislature some years ago, for an act of incorporation, and in consequence of such application (it is understood that), the act incorporating the *Historical Society of Ohio* was passed. This act of incorporation remained, however, neglected and unfruitful; the proposed Society it is believed never met, and consequently was never organized. In the meantime the opinion was formed, that something more should be aimed at in the organization of a State Society, than collecting materials for a civil history of the State; its Natural History it was thought, was as important, as useful, and as necessary, to be developed and explained; hence was passed “an act incorporating the *Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio*,” under the authority of which we are now assembled.

History and Philosophy embrace in their ample folds most subjects of human knowledge; but we may not suppose, that a numerous Society can compose the history of any country; they can no more do this, than they can compose an Iliad; but they may collect the materials of history, a copious store, from which some future Tacitus or Gibbon may weave the strong and elegant web of historic narrative. Neither can such a Society compose full and complete treatises upon sub-

jects of Natural History; but they may do more than can be done by insulated individuals, in collecting materials, and in storing up facts. We have examples in our own country—the Academy of Natural Science, of Philadelphia, and the New York Lyceum of Natural History, have shown that much may be done by such societies to enlarge the boundaries of science. If, then, it is asked, what are the objects and designs of this Institution?—it may be answered by stating, what can be accomplished by us, or to what objects we may most beneficially direct our attention.

Numerous monuments exist within the limits of this State, erected by men at some remote period of time; but by what men, at what distant time, and for what purpose, are interesting questions to us who succeed, at certainly a long interval, that people by whom they were erected. These questions remain to be answered. If the members of this Society who reside near these monuments, will procure and present to the Society accurate diagrams, with minute and exact descriptions of them, much light will doubtless be thrown on this obscure subject; it may then probably be ascertained by comparison with the erections of other tribes, or nations which are known to exist on this and on the eastern continent, whether their builders were of the race of red men known to us, or whether they were an earlier people, who, with their contemporary, the mammoth—have by some unknown cause become extinct. In the meantime, I may remark, that the tumuli of this part of the world, seem to be like those found in many parts of the old continent, which are now known to be places of sepulture, formerly used by many tribes of men. The embankments, or fortifications as they have been called, are of various forms, all different from the tumuli, and evidently intended to subserve different purposes; they all inclose areas sufficient to have been inhabited by some hundreds of people; we can not as

yet answer the inquiry "for what purpose were they created?" May they not have been built for walls to the towns and villages of the inhabitants? As defences not against the hostile attacks of other men, but against the inroads of the Buffalo? To prevent herds of that animal from trampling down whole settlements, with their houses and inhabitants in their infuriate career? Possibly they were raised to guard against a much more formidable animal, the mammoth; which formerly ranged over our plains and browsed in our forests, and which might have been a much more dangerous neighbor than the Buffalo. This inquiry is suggested by the fact, that some of the western tribes of Indians at this time, inclose their villages with embankments of earth, similar to those found on the Scioto bottoms, and in many other places: and by another fact, that these embankments have not been seen further north than the Buffalo is known to have ranged. Drawings and descriptions exist of many of these remains, but with what accuracy made is not well known; it is important that the fidelity of such descriptions as are accessible, should be verified by men of character and reputation, that it should be known what reliance may be safely placed on them, or that they should be entirely superseded, by full and perfectly authentic descriptions; for without such descriptions we can have no certain guides to our judgments; with them, this antiquarian research may furnish matter for the first chapter of the history of Ohio; not traditional and fabulous, but deduced from authentic facts and strict analogies.

A full history of the people who have immediately preceded us in the occupancy of the soil of Ohio, (some of whom yet remain among us,) is of more interest. The men who had exclusive possession of the country when this continent was discovered, seem to have been a pure and unmixed race, differing from any of the

racess who inhabit the old continent in many important particulars; but in no one more strikingly than in their constant resistance to all the means used for reducing them from their wild and erratic state to that of civilized communities. They have been constantly receding from the presence of the whites, and melting away from existence as a people. That they have been subdued by our arms, that they have ceased to occupy the station of independent communities, and are compelled to submit to the laws of their conquerors, does not exonerate us from the obligations of humanity, to promote their happiness in every way in which it can be done, consistent with our own well-being. As everything which has been done in this view has failed, philanthropy, as well as a liberal desire for knowledge, will impel us to inquire what has been the cause of such total failure in so benevolent a purpose? To answer this satisfactorily, let the members of the Society, who may be favorably situated for the purpose, explore their history as it exists in our libraries, and as it exists in their traditions; they may thus be enabled to inform us what nations inhabited our territory when it was first discovered by white men, and at subsequent periods, until the present time; how the various tribes were located, what were their numbers, their wars, and their migrations, and what efforts were made, and by whom, to civilize or to christianize them. It may be difficult, perhaps impracticable, to discover all which it is interesting to know concerning these people. A people nearly as wild as the animals of their forests, unacquainted with any arts but those of the first necessity, without the knowledge and use of iron, leave but a faint trace behind them. Their houses, their pictorial language, even their receptacles for the dead, go no further than present necessity impels; nothing of their habitations or language is calculated for permanence;

and, notwithstanding the examples of Mexico and Peru seem to prove that, the race of red men is not irreclaimably wild and savage, it may well be doubted, whether the generality of the North American tribes have any abiding home. The Delawares may be mentioned as a sample of such migrations; they are an example, also, of how completely a numerous people have been destroyed, by abandoning themselves to the guidance of ignorant fanaticism. It is now about an hundred years since a large proportion of the Delaware tribe of Indians, then living upon the borders of the Delaware river in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, were induced to put themselves under the control and guidance of the united brethren from Moravia. About twenty years afterward, this portion of the tribe with their leaders removed to the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas rivers, and finally settled down upon the latter, at which time they numbered more than three thousand warriors. Since that time, they have gradually wasted away, until but a few of them remain, who are located near the Thames in Upper Canada. By ascertaining all which can be known of the history, laws, usages, manners, and habits of these people, the philosophic inquirer will be furnished with materials, on a knowledge of which may be constructed a more rational and better system of treatment, if it is not a law of nature fixed and immutable, that the red man must retire from the presence of the white, and become in time extinct, whatever his treatment of him may be. The Mexicans and Peruvians of the same race had made great advances in civilization at the time they were conquered by the Spaniards. Why have they receded—and why have none of the other tribes of America advanced?—are questions which can only be answered in the same way, by acquiring a thorough knowledge of the Indian character. If the Indian tribes are reclaimable, if they are susceptible of attain-

ing the habits of civilized communities, we owe it to ourselves to change most radically our conduct toward them ; to change from a course eminently destructive to one benevolent and conservative. That our government has awakened to this duty of justice and humanity toward them, we may reasonably hope ; and, also, that the advantages of civilization may reach them, and their race be saved from utter extinction.

But a still more interesting and attractive subject for the historic labors of this Society, is the settlement and improvement of this State by its present possessors. We may have, from living witnesses of, and participants in the toils and privations of the first settlement, ample details of their operations ; we may especially anticipate from our Society memoirs of the formation of the Ohio Company, and the settlements made by it ; of the purchase and settlement made by John Cleves Symmes and his associates ; of the operations and settlements made by the Connecticut land companies, and of the first settlement of each county in the State. So recent is all this, that it will not be difficult to obtain and arrange every important fact concerning them. The commencement of each village, of each farm, indeed, may be ascertained and preserved ; and their progressive advance marked, from the first rude hut or log cabin, to their present improved condition. The Territorial government, that anomaly in the politics of a free country, will demand and should receive a large share of attention. The facts and circumstances attending the formation of a State Government are worthy of a detailed place in history ; the call of a Convention, the sitting of the Convention, its debates, and the Constitution formed by it. And it may not be too late to expect some explanation of a singular fact in this stage of our history. The Constitution of Ohio was never submitted to and sanctioned by the people ; it rests only on the au-

thority of the Convention, whose power to ordain and establish a new government might well be questioned, if usage and acquiescence had not given to it a sanction, equal in validity to a formal acceptance by the people. The organization of the State Government, the change of laws, consequent upon such organization, will claim attention ; and particularly the law authorizing aliens to hold land in this State, for the influence it had upon our prosperity, by inviting the immigration of numerous foreigners of character and property. We may also hope to see not merely the history of our steady and rapid increase in population and wealth recorded, but to see it done in the philosophic spirit which such a history demands, giving to future times the causes of an effect so extraordinary. Such a record will exhibit proof, (if any,) that this part of the Valley of the Mississippi was not settled by mendicant indolence, imbecility and ignorance, as some eastern eleemosynary projectors would seem to insinuate ; but by men of very different characters and habits. The history of peaceful occupations, of prosperous enterprise, and of all conquering industry, is not a history of great events, or exciting incidents ; but this state of things was broken in upon by the din of arms, and our history will have to record the participation of Ohio in the war of 1812 ; a war that found us without arms, without discipline, and destitute of military science ; and according to all ordinary principles of calculation, a people to be overrun and conquered with ease. Yet Ohio, the most exposed as a frontier State, performed her part with promptitude and effect ; her contributions were as great in men, and money, as those of any State of equal population and wealth ; and the unostentatious gallantry of her troops, though not always recorded in the journals of the day, should be distinctly remembered. But the effect of this war upon the prosperity of the State, its enormous waste of life

and property, claim a more thorough investigation and exposure than the feats of individual prowess, because it is in such effects that the real nature of all wars are most plainly seen, and may be most fairly appreciated.

More glorious than feats of arms, is that great achievement connecting Lake Erie with the Ohio river ; and it will probably be hereafter considered as the most interesting and instructive portion of our history. The materials for that history are now fully within our reach. Whether those materials shall be collected and published by the Society, or whether the State will consider it more honorable to publish them in an elegant form, to remain for the information, as the works themselves will remain for the use of future generations, is matter for the consideration of our Legislators. It may here with propriety be suggested, that the first known suggestion of the project of a Canal communication from Lake Erie to the Ohio river is Washington's ; and the first examination as to its practicability seems to have been made at his instance, and probably at his expense.

Antiquarian investigations, traditionary and authentic history of the Indians, and the history of the rise and progress of this State, though interesting and important, are yet, in my estimation of minor interest, and of secondary importance to a thorough investigation of its natural history ; for the former, materials exist that require the labor of the collector and compiler ; for the latter, also, abundant materials exist, (except in one department, Zoology,) to excite the industry and to reward the labor of the scientific student. That we inhabit a State with a soil of more general fertility than is perhaps to be found in any other, may be admitted or assumed. But if a stranger were to inquire of the nature, or of the natural products of that soil—of the trees and plants on its surface, or the mineral riches it incloses, he could not be referred to any complete de-



scription of them. It is now generally admitted, that all the trees and plants of this continent differ specifically from those of the old ; as do all the land animals, except a few that inhabit the polar circle, and which may pass Behring's straits upon the ice. The lover of Natural History will see by this, that he must depend upon his own observations and the facts collected in his own country, and not on foreign facts or analogies, for a knowledge of American products. If the geography of this continent is yet imperfectly understood, is not much less known of its Zoology, and still less of its Botany ?

Most of our forest-trees have indeed been described and elegantly drawn and colored by Michaux, though he did not penetrate the interior of the State, but found them on our southern border, or in the neighboring States which he traversed. May we not expect from the labors of some of our associates, that his *Sylva*, rich as it is in variety and beauty, may be filled up and completed ? To the lovers of Botany, our woods and prairies invite as to an unexplored field, where new genera and species of plants will be found to reward with new beauties their tasteful labors. The uses, economical and medicinal, of our forest-trees and plants, should be investigated and explained, that the useful and ornamental may be preserved and propagated, and the useless or pernicious be extirpated or permitted to disappear in the progress of clearing and cultivation. If, on such investigation, it should be found (as is supposed), that nearly or quite one-half of our forest-trees may be dispensed with, as useless for any other purpose than fuel, and of inferior value for that, then much of the ground which would otherwise be reserved for the growth of forest-trees may be appropriated to other uses. The Geology of Ohio remains also an unexplored field. This State is mentioned, indeed, in many

publications, in common with the other sections of the Valley of the Mississippi, as a secondary region; and its general features are indicated by such classification; but no scientific description of the Geological structure of any part of the State is known to exist. To give such description, the portion of country to be described must be carefully examined, and its various soils and rock formations noted with reference to the survey of the country into sectional divisions. The kindred sciences of Geology and Mineralogy are of so recent cultivation, and are even yet so little known, that I am tempted to a slight digression upon their utility and importance. The composition of soils (except the Alluvial) may in general be inferred from the rock formations on which such soils are superimposed. Without any knowledge of these sciences, men now judge from the trees and plants growing of what the soil is capable of producing. This method is correct, and sufficient to a certain extent—it indicates the present power of production, but it gives no surety of durable power; this can only be judged of, by knowing of what materials, and in what proportion, the soil in question is composed.

So if a person would build a house, it is important to his interest that he should know the durability of the materials he uses. If the building is of stone, he should know how great is its capacity of resisting the effect of alternate heat, and rain and winter frosts; without such knowledge, a man may find himself, after much expense in a dwelling house, the walls of which seem to invite and filtrate an inconvenient quantity of moisture—while its exposed surface is falling to decay. In the construction of roads, also, a knowledge of Mineralogy is important, because a surface of great hardness and durability is needed, and science only can direct to the proper material; the want of this knowledge in road making and its consequences will be strikingly illus-

trated to all who have seen the National Road from Uniontown to Zanesville. From the former place to the Ohio river, it was, for the most part made of clay-slate, a stone, which, a short period of alternate rain and sunshine, freezing and thawing, would reduce to clay, without the accelerating, crushing force of heavy wagons constantly applied. Of course, the road was soon out of repair, and large appropriations of money have to be made yearly to make it passable. From the Ohio, west, the surface of the road has been made of a meager limestone, scarcely more durable than clay-slate, so that it is already worn through in many place, and requires constant and expensive repairs; it may be supposed, therefore, that if skill and science had been used in selecting materials, most of the expense of repairs would have been saved. May we not hope, then, that the science of Geology will be more extensively cultivated; and may we not expect from this Society much valuable information, even in this, so much neglected department.

We want Geological maps and descriptive memoirs of every county in the State, from which may be learned the quality of soil in each—what are the principal rock formations, whether limestone, sandstone or slate—the qualities of our limestones, whether any of them admit of a fine polish, and can such be obtained in suitable forms to work for marble. Where, and of what qualities are the sandstones? Of the clay-slate, where are found the most suitable for hones? Are any found proper for roofing slate? What alum slates, and how rich in alum? We want also an accurate description of our coal region, its situation and extent in each county where found, the number and thickness of the beds or strata, and the different species or varieties. It is known that a large portion of the State abounds in coal of a very good quality; the extent, therefore, of our

coal-fields, their quality, and their contiguity to the canals; or other navigable waters, are matters of general interest. It is also known that we have a singular silicious formation running through several counties, from which a quartz-rock is abundantly quarried, and made into mill-stones, not inferior to the French burrs. The same formation affords oil-stones, which have been judged equal to the Turkey oil-stone. Iron ores, from which castings are extensively made, and good bar iron is manufactured, are abundant in many parts of the State. We want particular descriptions of the localities of these ores, as well as of their qualities. Specimens of Galena have been found, but not in quantities sufficient even to speak of it as one of our minerals. The Gypsum formation, near Sandusky Bay, is an interesting feature in the Geology of the State; a full description of which may be expected, and which will be the more important, as it is the only locality in the State in which this valuable mineral has been found in place. Beautiful crystals of Gypsum have been found in various places, and as these are deemed indications of the presence of mineral salt, they may lead to the discovery of the latter mineral. If other minerals exist in place, it is hoped that we shall have them described to us; for to obtain and to disseminate all the facts which may from time to time be discovered as to the mineral riches of the State, will probably always be deemed an object of importance to this Society. I am aware that a Society like this, without funds, and without many scientific associates of wealth and leisure, can not promise itself to obtain a Geological survey of the whole, or even of any very considerable part of the State, in many years; but this Society may commence the work; and when we shall have proved that we have at command the necessary science to complete it, we need not doubt but that Ohio will follow the example of Massa-

chusetts and Tennessee, and take under her munificent patronage the completion of the work.

To construct a good Geological map, requires much industry, care, and science; it should exhibit the different soils of the State, and the different rock and coal formations, by distinct and accurately marked boundaries. On such a map should be seen the beds of limestone, distinguishing each quality and its extent; so of sandstone—of the different slates—of the coal measures—the silicious formations, and the ores, and beds of Gypsum. The value and utility of such a map will be at once obvious from a simple description of it. I know of no such complete Geological map of any part of this country. Professor Hitchcock in his Geological map of Massachusetts has done much, but his map is incomplete. Of the survey of Tennessee, now making by Professor Troost (a member of this Society), we of course can know nothing, except that from the science and accuracy of the Professor may be expected a pattern we may be emulous to imitate. The different rock formations in the United States are indicated with general accuracy in Maclure's map; but the venerable father of Geological science in America aimed only to give a general outline of the Geology of the Union—and this he has accomplished.

In Zoology, much has been done in the other States, and something in our own—yet it is believed that we have birds which have eluded the industrious researches of Wilson, Bonaparte, and Audubon—and animals which have not been classed by Harlan, nor described by any other writer. Of reptiles, the known Massasagua or Black Rattlesnake of our northern counties has not been described: it would not have escaped the vigilance of Daudin, but his examinations did not extend to its peculiar haunts; so that the diligent student will find new species in the various families to reward

his labors, and enrich the collections. The fishes of America, including, it is believed, every species as yet found in our rivers and lakes, have been drawn and described by our associate, Lesueur; and it is hoped that want of patronage will not defeat the intention of publishing his Ichthyology in this country. The insects of Ohio have been collected by our associate, Say, and elegant figures, with accurate descriptions of some of them, may be found in that author's Entomology; but many more remain to be described in the future volumes of that work. The same gentleman is now engaged in a new and splendid work on the shells of America; and it is a fact not generally enough known amongst such of our citizens as have ability and taste to patronize such works, that there is now publishing in the western country a work on a branch of Natural History, now much cultivated, which, for its variety and the elegance of its delineations, rivals whatever of similar kind has been produced by the science and art of Europe. And yet, little as this work is known amongst us, probably the Conchology has more subscribers in Ohio than in any other State in the Union.

Of animals that formerly lived in our forests or upon our plains—the Mammoth is supposed to be an extinct species. The bones recently dug up on the Tuscarawas, below Massillon, are perhaps the only proof we have that such an animal was ever within our boundaries. Other species which have become extinct at a more remote period of time, will probably be discovered when our fossil remains shall be collected and described. The Buffalo and the Elk were numerous, at no distant time, upon our prairies and in our forests; the former have entirely disappeared, and the latter are now rarely seen by the hunter. The Naturalist who would describe these or the beaver, from living nature, may not find a specimen of either within our borders; and soon the

progress of cultivation will drive off or destroy the carnivorous inhabitants that yet linger in our woodlands. Man is not the only animal who drives out or destroys a kindred species to occupy its place. The Zoology of Ohio, even now, will embrace from the Genus Homo, to that of Mus, species which have disappeared and are disappearing, and giving way to new species or varieties.

Such is a rude and hasty outline of what may be done by this Society. If, then, it should be asked—what good can such a society do?—it may be answered, that it may materially aid the advancement of science, by collecting all the facts which may be known upon every branch of human knowledge, and by publishing such collections. To accomplish anything very useful, however, we must all take an interest in the prosperity of the Society; we must all contribute to enlarge the common stock of knowledge. By becoming a voluntary member of any society, the person so becoming a member undertakes to discharge his duties to such society. Whatever may be the purpose and object of association, it does not comport with honesty and good faith for any member to withhold his due share of labor to the common stock, of and for the benefit of the community. Associated, as we are, with such professions as our title holds out to the world, we can not be idle, and submit to be mere nominal members, without incurring the contempt that awaits upon vain and ignorant pretension. We may not be extensively acquainted with the history of the State—no one of us may be profoundly versed in the Philosophy of nature, and yet each one of us has knowledge of some facts concerning the civil or Natural History of the State, not known to all, yet worth communicating. Each one of us may acquire knowledge of other facts, by inquiry and observation; and if the individual stock should be small, not so the

aggregate; *that* would form a mass which no one individual could collect.

But it is not merely as collectors of specimens, and as writers of memoirs upon historical and philosophical subjects, that the members of this Society may make their labors useful to mankind. If hitherto, labors for subsistence, and to procure the means of comfortable living, have necessarily occupied the primary and almost undivided attention of most of us—if even education has been neglected and postponed, the formation of this Society is evidence that men in Ohio begin to think the first rude labors and privations incident to the settlement of a new country are passed; that they have leisure to look about them, to examine more minutely the situation in which they are placed—to recall and record the scenes they have passed through, and to analyze with deeper attention the physical properties which surround them. May it not also be considered as evidence of a greatly increased interest in the education of youth? This is emphatically a matter-of-fact age. Men delight not now, as formerly, in abstract theories and wayward imaginings. The subtleties of dialects are giving way to the truths of science; and education is ceasing to content itself with learning the languages, or storing up the opinions of past ages, and is endeavoring to reach the unknown truths it seeks to find through those which are known and acknowledged. We *may* add, and I trust *will* add, largely to our stock of knowledge by thus associating together and aiding each other in our inquiries; yet, probably, we would not thus associate merely for our individual benefit. We look beyond *that*, and up the long vista of the future imagine that we see the sons and daughters of Ohio throng that temple of science, the foundation of which we may now be laying. In its beneficial influence upon the education of youth, may then consist the principal



advantage which can result from this association. What has placed scientific France at the head of civilized nations? What has produced from her children, and in her language, more numerous and better works, in every branch of science and art, than have been produced by all other nations? I should answer, it is her garden of plants, her unrivaled museum of Natural History—the effect and the cause of scientific associations.

If any one should think that a State which dates its origin only forty-four years back, can not expect to rival France in her scientific establishments, they may consider that it is two hundred years since Doctor La Brosse commenced the Garden of Plants, under the patronage of a king who had at command the wealth of a nation, then the most wealthy in christendom. That it has been a favorite object with all the governments, and with the people of France, who have spared no expense to make it the most perfect establishment of the kind the world has ever seen. And reflect that *this* Institution has commenced at an era much more auspicious to the progress of knowledge—in a government of greatly superior strength and vigor, and amongst a people who have students, if not masters in arts and sciences, which were not known in the age of Louis XIII., and estimate what may be done here in two hundred years, if that strength and vigor, the fruit of liberty, shall not be extinguished in the madness of civil dissension.

When we consider that the study of Chemistry and of Natural History in America are both recent, and what advances have been made in knowledge within a few years, and perceive that science is even now preferred to learning—that the opinions of men, however learned, are less valued and sought for than the laws and phenomena of physical being—we may expect with confidence, that greater progress will be made by the

generation which is soon to take our place, and be encouraged to leave for its use all that may be discovered and arranged by our diligence. But this Society, whose resident members are scattered over the whole State, can not do more than hold annual meetings, and give general direction to the efforts of individual members. To succeed in the objects and designs" of this Institution, we must have a place of deposit for the books, manuscripts, and collections of the Society; and this must be at the seat of government. I trust that before long, we shall also procure ground for a Botanic Garden and means to cultivate it. It is therefore desirable, and even essential to the prosperity of this association, that the people of Columbus and its vicinity should take a lively interest in its success; there should be members enough here to hold quarterly meetings, to receive communications from members, and to arrange and superintend the printing of a journal of the progress of scientific discovery, as often as sufficient valuable matter should be collected for such publication. The settlement of this State has been such, that to what extent, and by whom the sciences are cultivated in one part of the State, is unknown in other parts; the Botanist of Muskingum can not now communicate his discoveries to the Botanist of Montgomery county, for he knows not of his existence; a new animal, or plant, or mineral may be found, and the Naturalists of Paris or London be appraised of the fact, and have specimens before them, before men engaged in the same studies, and in the same State, will know anything of the matter. This society, may concentrate such scattered rays of knowledge, and bring together what is now spread over the whole State, for the benefit of all. It is hoped and expected, that it will unite all the lovers and cultivators of Natural Science, and bring them into communication with each other; and by means of a journal of

their proceedings and discoveries, in communication with fellow-laborers everywhere.

Doubtless there are many men in different sections of the State, of learning and science, now strangers to each other, who will become members of this Society. The number of such will increase, if education receives the support and attention promised by the spirit of the age. But members of a society, living so dispersed and remote from the seat of government, can not be constant in attendance upon our meetings; nor should such attendance be expected or required. A member residing at Cleveland, Hamilton, or Marietta, to whom a journey hither may be very inconvenient, may send a memoir on some interesting subject, to be read to the meeting by some friend of the author. Those who reside in this neighborhood must sustain this Society; they must always compose a majority of its officers, and transact its ordinary business. Permit me, then, to remind those of you who are citizens of this capital, that on your patriotism and love of science the future prosperity and usefulness of this Society will mainly depend. Without your vigorous co-operation, it may continue in all the forms of a society legally organized; but if it has not such co-operation, if it is planted in an ungenial soil, it will certainly wither and decay.

# ADDRESS

BY JOHN H. JAMES,

DELIVERED BEFORE THE SOCIETY, DECEMBER 26, 1835.

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GENTLEMEN

*Of the Historical and Philosophical Society:*

IN carrying out the views of the former annual addresses which have been delivered before you, I deem it not unsuited to the design of this Society to occupy your attention with some thoughts on the prevailing systems of education. Under this name, a single branch of the great subject has received from political philanthropy the manifestations of high regard. But it is worth our while to consider whether the public mind has received a right direction for the exercise of its anxieties and its energies. Experience shows that the confidence of achieving great results, and of being on a right course, tends to lull the spirit of inquiry and to prevent the activity essential to success. So much are we disposed to follow an established habit, to pick up our opinions by the wayside, and to retain the thoughts we first imbibe, that ages elapse before the clouds of error disperse, although streams of light may at intervals pierce the gloom.

The history of all ages shows that while a few minds

may, by their intuitive vigor, anticipate their age, and be at once the discoverers and the heralds of new truths to their more tardy followers, the great mass will, by slow gradations, receive the knowledge thus developed and laid before them. There is in the mind of nations an intolerance of change, adverse to improvement and hostile to its projectors. For daring to suggest that the sun was the center of our immediate system of worlds, and that the planets revolved around it, and not about the earth, Galileo was imprisoned, and punished as an impious antagonist of divine revelation. For announcing the circulation of the blood, Hervey lost his reputation as a physician, and was traduced as a visionary. The man—a citizen of France in the age of Louis XIV.—who first had the boldness to suggest that the vapor of hot-water could be made efficacious in the propulsion of bodies, was imprisoned as a lunatic, and passed the remainder of his days in a mad-house. And when this averseness to a new state of things is not manifested, there is a slowness in adoption and in apprehension, which demonstrates that the general advancement of a whole community is to be achieved only by the most patient efforts. In our own times we see that discoveries in the arts, although announced by frequent publications, spread but slowly from the center of their invention. That temper in the human mind, which made the ancient Greeks and Romans use the same word to designate a stranger and an enemy, causes it yet to view all propositions of improvement as dangerous innovations, to be opposed by a barrier of prejudices. In America, where these prejudices are weakest, and the readiness of invention the strongest, with twenty years' experience, aided by the fostering care of legislation, our artisans have not yet attained that general skill which prevails in England, by force

of long established habit. In the arts, it is the skill of the master that gives a cunning hand to the apprentice; and in morals, it is the propriety of conduct in the life of the parent—every day and every hour, that secures the virtue and intelligence of the offspring, and that makes, when multiplied to every member of the community, a wholesome public sentiment and a benevolent regard for one another.

The elegant arts of life are practiced for ages, and make but little progress in diffusing their influence throughout the communities in which they flourish. The truths of philosophy remain pent in by prejudice and error, and christianity itself, after the lapse of two thousand years, does not embrace one-half the world in the territorial limits of its nominal professors. And yet, the frequent repetition of those specious words, the "march of mind," gives the impression that the human race are making giant strides to some utopian improvement; and in gazing at the brightness of the coming future, we are blinded to the means of achieving a present good. While such progress is impossible, the tendency of the human mind is onward to the goal of its aspirations; and any mistaken views of its capacity for improvement, when considered by communities, will, by creating disappointment, delay success.

In the ordinary pursuits of life, man is individually stimulated by his craving appetite—his thirst for distinction—his desire of conquest—and his love of power. He needs no prompting to the onset, nor incitement to the struggle; and while the powerful are courted for favor—the rich emulated for their wealth—and the distinguished and trusted rivaled in their elevation of command, these passions will never flag in their exercise, nor pall with satiety. And how much soever these objects of common pursuit may be at times set at

naught and undervalued, they at least employ and develop the powers of the human mind, and are the master means of accomplishing that great scheme of human happiness, which results from a healthy exercise of all our faculties.

But with propriety it may be said that our energies, as a people, are exhausted in laboring for ends that should be but means—that our legislation exhibits but a variation of plans for the creation of wealth—the furtherance of commerce, and the aggrandizement of national power. And, as if to promote these objects only, and as a measure auxiliary to their success, our plans of education, so called, are confined entirely to the cultivation of intellect. The spirit of the age professes to be active in the promotion of education, while it is plain to the attentive mind that the labors of our public journals—of our learned societies, and of legislative bodies, aim only at the giving of instruction in the arts and sciences—leaving untouched the great business of education which includes not only the communication of knowledge, but the formation of the mind, the regulation of the heart, and the establishment of principles. The error everywhere prevails, that the head is thought of more importance than the heart; and intellectual acquirements are purchased by years of the severest mental labor, while the affections and the morals are left a barren wilderness, in which no tree bearing wholesome fruit is to be found. If the moral principles are left to chance, to be formed on the models of expediency, and to conceal the yieldings to temptation, not to guard against them, in vain are universities, schools, and lyceums multiplied, in order to shed light over the land:—at last, it is but the cold light of winter—cheering the gloom, indeed, but unaccompanied with that fructifying heat, which makes the

earth to yield her increase. What avails it for the head to know, if the heart be not honest and steady in its purpose? Vain is the resort to chart and compass, if the pilot be unfaithful and timid; the bark may float with the current, and preserve its balance in the steady breeze.

—————"When the sea is calm,  
All boats alike show mastership in floating;"

but when danger threatens, she is without guidance. And when the storm comes she is overwhelmed and lost.

This exclusive regard paid to the cultivation of the intellectual faculties, and the successful achievements which have followed the effort, have given blazonry to the march of mind, and proud reference has been made to the history of the advancing times. A hope has been indeed excited, that the rays of knowledge are becoming so refracted and converged, that the drear and gloomy places in the great social compact are about to be made glad and cheerful. The hope has been justified by the practical advances made in political freedom, and the expanded enjoyment of individual rights, throughout the world. A spirit of emancipation has walked the earth, bursting the bands and cerements from the body of the people, and guiding the energies that awakened to her touch. It is justified by the increase everywhere made in the productions of the press—their diminished price, and more thorough diffusion among the classes not denominated rich. It is justified by the institutions everywhere springing up for the diffusion of knowledge, and in the increased attention and multiplied means provided for the primary instruction of the people. But well founded as the hope may be, and cheering as it assuredly is, to the philanthropic mind, the great body of society is infected with pestilent humors which should be removed. The



knowledge of letters—the study of books and the founding of schools, give but the means of promoting and adorning the duties of life, and make odious the uncorrected delinquencies in public morals.

How is it that we everywhere see so keen a pursuit of public office—such perseverance in attaining it, with such reckless indifference to the means of success? How is it that all public conduct of the purest men is without scruple attributed to unworthy and debasing motives—that the most unsullied honor in private life affords no safeguard to one promoted to a public trust; and that the man of unquestioned veracity in everything else is treated as a ruthless liar, if perchance he assert an unwelcome fact in politics? How is it, that while we boast ourselves the most free and enlightened nation, and profess to tolerate the utmost freedom of debate, and complete immunity in the enjoyment of private opinion, we punish and chastise those who maintain opinions obnoxious to the common mass? How is it that private correspondence is betrayed, and given to the press—that the implied confidence to be observed in social intercourse is violated, and its published details received with eagerness, and without a shock to the public mind? How is it that in commercial relations, some achievements of gain receive credit as applauded speculations, which, to an unsophisticated mind, are gross frauds and dishonest circumventions? How is it that the adventurous trader and fraudulent concealer of his goods, who perseveres in a desperate course of loss, carrying ruin to the families of those who have confided in his pretense of fair dealing, meets with no scowl settling on the public brow—is something more than tolerated in society, and viewed as a merely unfortunate man? How is it that we heap applause on those who have merely acted right—eulo-

gizing the performance of a common charity, or the observance of honest restitution? Above all, why is it that the conjugal vow may be broken, and the spirit of kindness chased away by discord—that the commandments of God, the ordinances of man, and the becoming decencies of life, may be broken and disregarded in open day, and the delinquents walk in undisturbed immunity from scorn?

The offended sense of violated right—the conscious integrity of the upright heart, and the benign principles of Christianity require—not that the offender be followed with vengeance, but that the ill itself be cured. A wise philosophy will seek to know, and to adopt the means, of training the habits and moral practice of the world to the dictates of conscience and the inflexible rule of right.

To effect this, we must adopt a rational system of education—a proper training up, as the word means, not merely in earliest youth, but from the cradle to the grave; for every new sentiment inspired, every new thought that warps the principles of action, for good or for ill, are but parts of the education of our race. It must be the business, then, of every prudent and virtuous people, to so form public sentiment that its daily influences shall further or correct the principles implanted under the parent's roof. All good impressions are received in the days of infancy. When lying fondly at the knees of our mothers, we learn those lessons of virtue and right principle, if we ever have them at all, which guide us in our after life; and in the darkest hours, when temptations most sorely beset us, and when perils are greatest, they beam out as beacon stars to guide the wanderer to his rescue. Then it is, and almost only then, when the affections are young and fresh, their aspirations purest, and their passions strong-

est, that the heart can be molded into a consistent life of benevolence, sobriety, truth, and firmness.

It is not denied that moral maxims and didactic precepts abound in our schools, our systems of book education, and in our household government, but they are addressed only to the intellect, and are remembered as things to be said, not done. The most efficient instruction is that which is addressed to the impulses of sentiment, aside from reason, implanted in us by the Creator. These impulses are quick and vigorous before the intellect has developed its powers, and they enable the mere child to detect the improprieties in conduct and the inflictions of injustice practiced before them by their superiors in age. The sagacity of children is so greatly underrated, and the inherent judgment of their feelings so generally disregarded, that we lose the benefit of the impressions that might be made upon their characters. They are first neglected—their generous confidence rebuked with unkindness, and their veracity destroyed by cold suspicions. Their conduct is too often regulated, and their actions incited by appeals to low and groveling standards. Their obedience is bought with proffers of reward—their decorous deportment secured by infusing a dread of public opinion, and their ambition stimulated by rivalry and jealousy. Such are the errors resulting from a false principle of action: there are other bad results communicated, as it were, by inadvertence. The unguarded conversation of the parent—the uncharitable feeling to his fellow-men, and the impugning of their motives, are marked and imitated by the child. When the fact is remembered that the opinions of the parent in religion and politics pass by descent, as it were, and become hereditary, it will be seen how important is the duty of always acting on sound principles, and exhibiting perfect models for imitation. And when the manner in which opinions are

transmitted, errors propagated, and vices nurtured, is duly considered, we shall be struck with the mistake made in the remedies proposed for the correction of evil in society. It is a common and a grievous fault, that children and young persons are abandoned to their own care, withdrawn from all restraints, and a passive prey to vice.

It has been made a matter of enthusiasm, and of most extended effort, for a few years past, to correct the age and diminish crime by banishing the use of ardent spirits. The calendars of the criminal courts have been scrutinized, and the conclusion formed, that the majority of all crimes committed are caused solely by the use of intoxicating liquors. It is not denied that they exercise an aggravating influence, but it may be with truth said, that in most cases an attendant circumstance has been mistaken for a cause. If the natural effect of intoxication is to produce crime, its action would be uniform, and in one direction. We see, however, that every variety of development is made; and that while some may show a vicious temper and a bad heart, others display nothing but good and amiable feelings, accompanied by acts of kindness. The fair conclusion is, that the influence of spirituous liquors gives but additional energy to the natural propensities of man—and the disposition to crime rather induces than follows the habit of intemperance. The great utility of temperance associations is not denied. They have shown that a powerful effect, both in thought and practice, may be produced by the steady course of voluntary associations acting in concert. But the period of enthusiasm has passed by, and total abstinence will be found but a temporary shield. If society is to be reformed, and the amount of crime diminished, it must be by a judicious training of the young, and

giving active employment to all the good principles and faculties of our nature.

It has been a no less favorite topic with others, that a system of common schools will regenerate the world, and that the instruction there given will be the surest basis on which to rest the stability of government. Most earnest and vigorous efforts are made to establish funds—to multiply instructors, and to inculcate the elements of knowledge. It is all well, but let us not deceive ourselves with hopes that will never be realized. Increase the knowledge of a nation, and you increase its power; but whether the people composing it will be better and wiser, must depend on the education they receive, apart from the instructions of the school-master. It is computed that within the lapse of a century, the sum of intellectual effort has been increased a hundred fold. The most energetic minds are occupied with a wider range of subjects, and the common means of knowledge have been immensely multiplied. The mental excitement which was formerly afforded only by the minstrel and the troubadour, and which, in the days of Shakespeare and Dryden, was found but at the theater and coffee house, is now brought to every man's own fireside in the cheap publications of the day. But has this diffusion of the glare of knowledge made the world proportionably better? Is crime in equal degree less frequent—have its perpetrations lessened in their atrocity—is greater reverence shown for the laws—does good will and peace more extensively prevail among men? Contrary to the hopes of those who have most zealously advocated education, the aggregate amount of crime has not diminished; and comparing the number of those who have received instruction with those who have not, crimes have sometimes been found even more prevalent among the former

than the latter. Let it not be thought that knowledge of letters is underrated, or that reading and writing are of no use in advancing the happiness of a people. An undue importance, however, may be assigned to their attainment. It has recently happened that the citizens of New England were publicly invoked, in a series of addresses delivered among them, to send forth the morality and learning of the Pilgrim States to leaven the mass of western population, and rescue it from benighted ignorance. The public journals were teeming with contrasts of *their* abundant schools and colleges with the destitution of the west. It may be that the self-love of the backwoodsman repels the offered sympathy for his state of destitution; but let the morality of the countries be weighed in the balance, let the criminal records of each be compared, and the west has nothing to lose in the estimate, either as to the due administrations of justice or the number of her convicts. The sons of the west, unlettered though they may be, have an abiding reverence for the laws; and within the bounds of Ohio, there has been no mob to trample them under foot—no fancied necessity of inflicting a vengeance beyond the sentence of the courts—no phrenzied persecution for the free exercise of conscience.

What we here call obedience to the laws, is not a literal compliance with public enactments, through dread of their penalties, but a moral action of the people. This is the true principle of government; and the constitution of every country is not in a written charter, but in the minds of the people. The opinion and practice of one age form and guide the next; and the people act in conformity with habit, not with laws and parchments. Let our systems of instruction, then, become systems of education, so managed as to give healthy

excitement and activity to the moral and religious feelings of men, as well as to enlighten their minds. The schools of primary instruction should be so multiplied that every family can share their benefits. The teachers should be something more than laborers for hire; and the best faculties of the country should be allured to the task by the honor and emoluments of the station. It is the right of every child to be instructed; and if the parents neglect it, the State should secure it. Every government owes the duty to itself and to posterity, that each member of the community should be taught his duties as a citizen, and endowed with intelligence and moral firmness to deal justly with his fellow-men: then the foundations of our political institutions will be laid on a firmer ground than the sandy and unstable one of popular enthusiasm. The stormy passions of men will be hushed and still, and the whirlwind of human wrath no more be dreaded.

For what is it that a people labor to increase their stores of wealth but to increase their happiness—to expand the enjoyments of individuals, and to promote the security of the public. For the erection of forts on our frontiers, and the support of armies to garrison them—for the building of navies and the charge of keeping them afloat, millions are expended, and the expenditure is justified by the necessity of defense. To facilitate trade and to increase the price of labor, millions more are expended in the construction of highways and canals, and the expenditure applauded for the profits which flow from the enterprise. The same regard should be shown for the cause of education; and a course of efficient instruction be given at whatever cost. Not only should every child receive the common elements of knowledge, but every county

should have its high schools, supported at the public charge for the instruction of the minds that demand it. Above all, the special culture of the female mind, neglected as it is, claims the patronage of the State as the highest duty that devolves upon it; for never yet was a wise and virtuous son born of a foolish and ignorant mother. Throughout their lives, the holiest feelings of men, their purest morals and their noblest sentiments are inspired and controlled by their mothers, their wives, and their sisters.

Our present systems of education will indeed give the world more knowledge and more sources of delight, but not more wisdom. The present systems are of too narrow scope, as the intellectual part may be so enlightened as to see what is right, and yet the moral strength too weak to practice it. So form your schools that besides giving the mere means of understanding, your teachers will make the moral principles keep pace with the intelligence of the community. As you would reform the world, foster the rising generation, and teach them honesty as well as science; train them not after the models of expediency, but teach them to lead religious lives—and by religion is not meant the mere forms of worship, nor the elements of sectarian creeds—but right conduct from right motives—an acting from inherent principles, and not to be seen of men.

In the days of his youth, let man be trained in the way he should walk, that when age comes on and trials beset him, his feet may know no wandering. Let him learn that the peace of his own conscience and the certainty of happiness are best secured by pressing on in the even tenor of his way. Neither time nor circumstance must cause us to modify or to



change. Integrity knows no variation, honesty no shadow of turning. We must pursue the same course, steady and uncompromising, in the full persuasion that the path of right is like the bridge from earth to heaven in the Mahommedan creed, if we swerve but a hair's breadth we fall and perish.

A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF THE  
FLOODS IN THE OHIO RIVER

FROM THE YEAR 1772 TO THE YEAR 1832.

WITH OBSERVATIONS ON THE EVENTS CONNECTED  
THEREWITH.

BY S. P. HILDRETH.

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THE region of country which pours its superabundant waters into the Ohio River is one of very considerable extent; but that portion of it only which lies between the falls at Louisville, *Ky.*, and its extreme head branches in the State of Pennsylvania, will be embraced in these observations. These limits contain nearly 6° of latitude, and 7° of longitude—which, when reduced to square miles, afford one hundred and fifty thousand lying between 37° and 43° north, and 2° and 9° of west longitude, from Washington city.

When we consider that the great portion of this surface is either undulating, rough, or precipitous, we are not surprised at the great and sudden rises which take place in its waters. The streams which flow from the south of the Ohio take their rise in hilly or mountainous regions, and are subject to more sudden overflows than those on the north side, which, generally rising in a more level country, are less suddenly filled with water. The soil is of an argillaceous or loamy quality, and does not so readily absorb the rains as that of a

sandy or gravelly nature; and therefore from the same extent of surface, turning off a much greater amount of surplus water. This quality of the soil has also, no doubt, given rise to that broken and unëven surface of the country, generally, bordering the Ohio River and most of its tributary streams.

In the lapse of past ages, the rains seeking a level for their waters, over a region once nearly uniform in its surface, found the most depending part of the plain or valley to be that which is now occupied by the bottom lands on the Ohio River. These channels, gradually deepening from year to year, have formed to themselves a steady outlet, and worn away the surface of the country into that uniformly broken and precipitous aspect which is found on all that portion of the valley bordering the Ohio, and extending for sixty or eighty miles on both its northern and southern banks.

At the eventful epoch in the history of the earth, when that ancient ocean which once rolled its waves across the region now called the "Valley of the Mississippi," was drained off by the gradual rising of its bottom, and its bed became dry land, the surface was doubtless nearly, if not entirely level. Its present broken appearance may therefore be rationally attributed to the annual washing away and attrition of the soil by rains and melted snows. The streams of this region, and especially the Ohio, are bordered by tracts of alluvion, formed by the periodical overflowings of their waters; and leaving a greater or a less amount of deposit, according to the height of the flood. The fertility of this soil, and luxuriant growth of its products, led the early settlers of the country to locate themselves on the borders of the streams, not knowing or not reflecting that they were placing themselves and their property within the territories of a merciless and relentless element. The formation of the country in

which most of the southern tributaries of the Ohio take their rise, is well calculated to produce sudden and great elevations in their waters, being mountainous or hilly, and of such an elevation as to condense most of the aqueous vapors into snow during the winter months, and yet in a latitude subject to great inequalities of temperature; so much so that the heaviest rains often fall when the earth is covered with snow to the depth of three or four feet. Should this rain happen to be extensive, as it sometimes is, the result is such an immense precipitation of waters from all the adjacent country that the natural channels of the streams can not contain them, and they flow over their banks, covering the bottom lands, or alluvial portions of the country, to the depth of many feet—bringing swift destruction to the hopes and to the labors of the occupants of these ill-fated tracts. Nevertheless, the fertility of the soil is such, the conveniency of marketing its products so great, the views on the river so interesting and beautiful, as the noble stream glides along in tranquil majesty, that few of the present occupants could be induced to leave it for a more safe but more remote distance from its borders. In a short time they forget all its tumultuous outbreakings, and remember it only as “the smooth and tranquil Ohio;” they set about repairing their fences in a more durable and substantial manner; seek a more elevated spot for such buildings as have been removed by the flood, and fortify themselves against the return of a calamity, which they hope will be at a far distant day.

The beauty and fertility of the country constituting the Valley of the Mississippi was but little known to the inhabitants east of the mountains, except from the narratives of an occasional Indian trader, until about the period when Fort Du Quesne fell into the hands of the British and Colonial troops, in the year 1758. The

French Jesuits, as early as the year 1673, had made excursions from Montreal to the Mississippi River; and from that period to the establishment of Fort Du Quesne at the junction of the Monongahela and Alleghany rivers, trading-houses and missionary establishments had been formed at the most commanding points throughout this broad and interesting region. The rivers and lakes had been generally traversed and explored, and formal possession taken of the country, by erecting a wooden cross on some commanding point near the mouths of the rivers, and by casting into the streams a heavy plate of lead, on which was engraven the name of Louis the Fourteenth, with the year in which the event took place. One of these plates was found on the bar at the mouth of the Muskingum river, in the year 1796 or '98, by a person engaged in fishing. In 1758, the name of the military establishment at the forks of the Ohio was changed to that of Fort Pitt. In the same year, a fort was built at Brownsville, afterwards called "Red-stone old fort;" little, however, was done towards making permanent settlements anywhere west of the Alleghany Mountains until some years after the peace of 1765.

In the year 1769, Col. Ebenezer Zane, with his brothers, Silas and Jonathan Zane, explored the tract of country on the Ohio River, near to where the town of Wheeling now stands, for the purpose of making a permanent settlement. Col. Zane located on an eminence above the mouth of Wheeling creek, and nearly opposite to a beautiful island in the river. The spot chosen at that early day is now in possession of his son, Noah Zane, Esq., and is not far from the center of the town. In the following year they removed their families, in company with Col. David Shepherd, of the south branch of the Potomac, and having built a garrison, were, for

a long period, the most frontier settlement on the Ohio River.

The earliest account we have of any extraordinary flood is in the year 1772, as narrated by Mrs. Shepherd, a daughter of Col. Shepherd, and confirmed by Silas and Jonathan Zane. From the most correct information that can be obtained, this flood took place in June; probably at the time of the solstice—as we now annually, and almost without failure, have more or less of a rise in the river at the period of the summer solstice; and all persons doing business on the water calculate with great certainty on “the June fresh.” The flood now mentioned was one of vast height; and, had the bottom grounds been filled with inhabitants as at the present day, it would have spread ruin and devastation over every town and hamlet on its borders. It was not less than *five feet* higher than the flood of 1832, backing up Wheeling creek to the falls at the forks of the creek, a mark of its height easily remembered at a time when no records of such events were kept, or any newspaper printed west of the mountains. In proof of its being five feet higher than the recent flood, it is in evidence that this flood lacked about five feet in height in order to flow back Wheeling creek to the falls. After Gen. Wayne's treaty with the Indians in 1795, the natives frequently visited the settlement at Marietta for the purposes of trade. Seeing dwelling-houses erected, and improvements making on the bottom lands, the aged Indians, with a shake of the head, would point with their hands to the elevated branches of the Sycamore-trees on the banks of the river, saying they had seen the water that high; and at some future day the white man would see it there also. All who heard it at that time believed it to be merely Indian hyperbole; but recent events have proved the Indian legend to be true.

In the spring of 1778, the Ohio overflowed its banks very suddenly, and falling with as great rapidity as it had risen, left a large boat belonging to a party under Gen. McIntosh, at that time descending the river, and landing at Wheeling to pass the night, so firmly aground, and so far from the water, that she was abandoned, and her loading put on board the other boats that had been more fortunate in their place of landing. Mrs. Shepherd relates this event, and has it impressed on her mind from this circumstance—that she had, when a girl, often hung out the clothes of the family, after washing, to dry on the ruins of the boat. She also says that Wheeling Island was overflowed, and the top of the mound only in sight. This fresh was less by seven feet than that of 1772.

In March, 1784, after continued and heavy rains, attended with southern winds, and a deep snow on the mountains and uplands adjacent, the river rose with great rapidity, overflowing its banks and sweeping away the fences and improvements on the bottom lands, to the great injury and damage of the early settlers. This fresh was of the same height, or very nearly so, with that of 1832. The country, however, on the river, was but very thinly settled at that time. There was a settlement at the mouth of Grave creek, where Mrs. Betsey Tomlinson then resided; she is now living, and confirms this statement. There was also "*a tomahawk improvement*," as they were then called, on the Virginia shore, opposite the mouth of the Big Muskingum river, made by Mr. Isaac Williams, and the brothers of Mrs. Tomlinson. A grant of a hundred acres of land was made by the government of Virginia to any person who should deaden the timber on one acre of ground, plant it with corn, and erect on the tract a log cabin, in any part of the territory claimed by Virginia west of the mountains. Many tracts were taken up and settled

in this way by the bold and daring backwoodsmen, at a much earlier period than they otherwise would have been. The cabin erected on this improvement was on the high bank, a little way from the river; and the water was so high as to remove some of the poles laid on the lower part of the roof to confine the shingles. From the height of the water in the recent flood about the house now standing where the old cabin was built, there could have been but little difference in the comparative height of the two floods. That this was actually the period of time stated by Mrs. Tomlinson, we have confirmation in the notable flood which happened in the Susquehannah river, about the middle of March, 1784. The head branches of this stream interlock with those of the Ohio. Both rivers rise in a snowy, mountainous country, and each are subject to freshets in the same season of the year. The rains and thaws of the winter of 1831-32 affected these rivers in the same manner, and produced in the Susquehannah a greater flood than had been known since the memorable one of 1784. The following account of that flood is copied from a note in the writings of the late Dr. Benjamin Rush, in his history of the climate of Pennsylvania:

"The winter of 1783-4 was uncommonly cold; inso-much that the mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer stood several times at five degrees below zero. The snows were frequent, and in many places from two to three feet deep, during the greatest part of the winter. All the rivers in Pennsylvania were frozen, so as to bear wagons and sleds with immense weights. In the month of January, a thaw came on suddenly, which opened our rivers so as to set the ice "a driving," to use the phrase of the country. In the course of one night, during the thaw, the wind shifted suddenly to the northwest, and the weather became intensely cold. The ice, which had floated the day before, was suddenly



obstructed; and in the river Susquehannah, the obstructions were formed in those places where the water was most shallow, or where it had been accustomed to fall. This river is several hundred miles in length, and from half a mile to a mile and a half in breadth; and winds through a hilly and in many places a fertile and highly cultivated country. The ice in many places, especially where there were falls, formed a kind of dam, of a most stupendous height. About the middle of March, the weather moderated, and a thaw became general. The effects of it were remarkable in all our rivers, but in none so much so as in the river I have mentioned. I shall, therefore, in a few words endeavor to describe them. Unfortunately, the dams of ice did not give way all at once, nor those nearest to the mouth of the river first. While the upper dams were set afloat by the warm weather, the lower ones which were the largest, and in which the ice was most impacted, remained fixed. In consequence of this, the river rose in a few hours, in many places, above thirty feet, rolling upon its surface large lumps of ice, from ten to forty cubic feet in size. The effects of this sudden inundation were terrible—whole farms were laid under water. Barns, stables, horses cattle, fences, mills of every kind, and in one instance, a large store house 40 by 30 feet, were carried down the stream. Large trees were torn up by the roots; several small islands covered with woods were swept away, and not a vestige of them was left behind. On the barns, which preserved their shapes in some instances for many miles, were to be seen living fowls—and in one dwelling, a candle was seen to burn for some time after it was swept from its foundation. Where the shore was level, the lumps of ice, and the ruins of houses and farms, were thrown a quarter of a mile from the ordinary height of the river. In some instances, farms were ruined by the mold being swept

away by the cakes of ice, or deposition of sand, while others were enriched by large deposits of mud. The damage, upon the whole, done to the State of Pennsylvania by this fresh was very great. In most places it happened in the day-time, or the consequences must have been fatal to many thousands."

Very fortunately for the inhabitants on the banks of the Ohio, the floods in this river are never attended with such rapid rises, and the people have leisure to remove their furniture and cattle beyond the reach of the water, if they give early attention to the matter.

The settlement at Marietta was commenced the 7th day of April, A. D. 1788, by the Ohio Company. For many years after this period, there was no flood in the Ohio River of sufficient importance to demand special notice. The river, in the spring and autumn, was generally about "full bank," but never overflowed so much as to remove fences. Small buildings were often erected on the low bottoms near the river, by the early settlers, for the convenience of fattening hogs, etc., and remained there for years without molestation from the water. The writer of this article commenced his residence at Marietta in the year 1806. The first flood which excited any notice took place the first of January, 1809—filling some of the lower streets with water, but doing no damage. In January, 1813, (being twenty-five years after the settlement of Marietta,) the first great rise in the Ohio occurred. It commenced rising at this place on the 25th day of the month. The weather had been warm for several days previously; the earth was covered with snow a few inches in depth, and at the head waters, with several feet. On the night of the 24th, the rain fell in torrents, and from the unparalleled rapid rise of the water, the rains must have been equally powerful on all the head branches of the river. In twenty-four hours after the commencement of the rise,

the water was over the banks, and rising at the rate of eight inches per hour. The interest and grandeur of the scene was greatly augmented by the immense bodies of ice which covered the river from shore to shore, and of a thickness varying from twelve to eighteen inches; generated in the more northern branches by the intense cold. In the night, the rushing of the waters and the crashing of the ice against the dwelling-houses in the streets near the river was truly alarming and terrific. The water continued to rise until Thursday, 6 o'clock A. M., the 28th, when it ceased; and about 12 or 1 o'clock P. M., began falling slowly. The weather in the meantime had become very cold, and all the bottom lands, where the current was not very strong, were covered with a sheet of ice, two or three inches in thickness. This was the cause of great damage to orchards and young trees; the ice freezing to the branches, and being in many places over the tops of the trees, crushed them to the ground as the water fell. The banks of the river were left piled up with ice, to the height of six or eight feet, rendering the roads in many places impassable. Immense quantities of hay and grain were destroyed—fences removed, and many farmers who had neglected to drive off their cattle and other domestic animals in time, lost the whole stock of their farms. The coldness of the water, and ice forming over the flooded bottoms, prevented their swimming to dry land, in many situations where they could have escaped in milder weather. The sufferings of the inhabitants were much increased by the severity of the cold; many of them, alarmed at the rapid rising of the water, fled from their houses to the adjacent hills; and erecting temporary sheds or camps of bark, viewed in mute anguish the destruction of their crops, cattle, and labors of the past year. When the waters subsided and they could again visit their dwellings, the destruction was

like that of an invading army. Their houses, though not burnt, were filled with mud and ice; their fruit trees crushed to the earth and ruined; their fences removed, the ice prevented from floating away, and their cattle and crops destroyed. However, few human lives were lost, and the course of the next season restored in part their equanimity, if not their property. The height of this flood was estimated at forty-five feet above low water mark, the greater part of which rise took place in thirty-six hours. The general average depth of the water over the bottom lands was from six to eight feet, and in some places deeper. The greater portion of this immense body of water was supplied from the Monongahela and Alleghany rivers. It fortunately happened that the Muskingum river was not very high at that time, for had it been as much elevated as the Ohio river, the damage to Marietta would have been greatly increased, as the junction of the two streams would have caused an additional rise of several feet at their place of meeting. Eight miles from its mouth, the Muskingum bottoms were flowed only to the depth of three feet — and higher up, still less. The head branches of this river rise in a comparatively level country, and so far north that they are not so liable to thaws and heavy rains in the winter months as the streams located on the south side of the Ohio. For this reason there must be a rare combination of circumstances to produce a very great rise in all these streams in the same period of time; and its rarity is, in fact, a matter of very considerable importance to the inhabitants of the valley of the Ohio.

The last of March, in the year 1815, being only two years and two months from the former flood, the river again overflowed its banks. This flood was, at Marietta, a little higher than that of 1813. The water was at its greatest elevation the first day of April; and rising for

the last twenty-four hours only one inch per hour, tantalized the hopes of the inhabitants with expectations of its ceasing for many hours before it did so—the former fresh having been rapid in its rise, and ceasing in a few hours after it had lessened to three inches an hour. In the flood of 1815, the Muskingum river was much higher than the Ohio—forcing the whole body of its waters entirely across the channel of the Ohio, so as to strike the opposite shore with the drift wood on its surface with great force. The tributary streams on the north side of the Ohio were all very high below the mouth of the Muskingum; whilst a few miles above, the Ohio was not unusually high. Peach-trees were in full bloom at the time, affording a novel spectacle with their beautiful flowers dripping in the stream. This was the highest flood ever known in the Muskingum river since the first settlements were made on its borders. The bottom lands were entirely stripped of their fences—stacks of hay and grain—bridges, mill dams, and numerous small buildings; several stacks were seen floating down the current, covered with domestic fowls which had retreated there for safety. From Marietta to the falls of the Ohio, the bottom lands were deeply overflowed; the consequences were not so disastrous to the inhabitants as the flood of 1813, from its happening at a season of the year when their stock of hay and grain had been mostly expended, and the weather much more mild. Much less damage was also done to bridges, from the inhabitants taking the precaution to load them with earth and stones, in such a way as to prevent their floating. The rich deposit left by the water on the low grounds, makes a small remuneration to the farmer for his losses. It is but small, and yet it fertilizes the meadows for several years.

From this period of time to the winter of 1831–2, there was no flood of sufficient height to do any mate-

rial damage to the inhabitants, or to require particular notice in these remarks. The inhabitants had nearly forgotten that the Ohio was subject to overflow its banks, or that they were living within reach of the watery element. The summer of 1831 had been one of unusual humidity; the climate seeming to have changed from the temperate to that of the tropical region—so far as related to rains. There fell, during the summer and early autumnal months, three feet of rain; and in the whole year, four and a half feet—whereas the usual annual quantity is a little over three feet, or about forty inches. The summer and autumn were very cool, being about  $5\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  less than the usual mean temperature, for these seasons of the year. The winter commenced about a month earlier than common. The whole of the month of November was cold; the temperature for the month being  $40^{\circ}$  <sup>75-100</sup> of Fahrenheit. Snow fell as early as the 21st of the month; and with high winds from the west and north-west, continued to fall in small quantities almost every day to the end of the month. The 28th and 29th days, the mercury fell to  $12^{\circ}$ . The Ohio river became filled with ice, and navigation ceased. Hundreds of flat boats, laden with the produce of the country, became frozen to the shores, or forced by the ice on to the sand bars at the heads of the islands, remained wedged without hope of escape—their cargoes mostly composed of apples, cider, and potatoes were generally destroyed by the intensity of the frost. The harvesting of corn and potatoes was far from being completed, and many large fields of both articles were yet ungathered at the setting in of this Siberian winter. The whole month of December was uniformly cold; and for several mornings the temperature was at and below zero; on the 18th it was  $10^{\circ}$  below, which is the greatest degree of cold felt at Marietta for several years past. The mean temperature for the month was

21°. The fore part of January, the weather became moderate; and on the 8th day, after a heavy rain, the ice, now from 12 to 18 inches in thickness, was broken up and put in motion, by a rise of ten or twelve feet in the waters of the Ohio. Vast sheets, of many acres in extent, moved with resistless force, destroying nearly every boat not secured in some safe harbor. Amongst them were not less than ten or twelve steamboats, some of which had valuable cargoes of merchandise on board. From the 8th to the 20th, the weather continued mild, with a good deal of rain, so that by the 21st the river was "full banks," and in low places over the banks. By this rise, the ice was removed from all the southern and eastern branches; and although the river was, during the cold weather the last of the month, full of floating ice, it was not again frozen over. From the 20th to the end of the month, there fell sixteen inches of snow; the most of which was lying on the ground, at the beginning of the mild weather, the first of February. From the 1st to the 12th of this month, there fell eight inches of rain, sometimes attended with thunder. It rained nearly every day, and a part of the time with the temperature at 65°. More than a foot in depth of snow covered the whole face of the country, and on the head branches of the Ohio, it was from three to four feet in depth. With all this rain, melted snow, and a high temperature, what else could follow but a most destructive inundation of the whole valley of the Ohio. From the best information, although it was not accurately measured by inches, the fall of rain was much greater on the slopes of the mountains, at the heads of the Yonhiogany and Kiskiminitas, and over all the adjacent region, than at Marietta. The principal sources of the flood at Pittsburgh were from these two mountain streams, although the other rivers were very high also. These rains were attended with warm southerly winds,

and heavy discharges of the electric fluid, more especially on Thursday, the day the river commenced rising. The water was at the height in Pittsburgh, on Friday, the 10th of February, at 9 o'clock P. M., and was thirty-two feet above low water mark, and two feet and four inches above any former flood. Its rise was very rapid through Thursday night, and on Friday morning it was twelve inches per hour. From 8 to 10 o'clock, about nine inches; from 10 to 2 o'clock P. M., six inches per hour. From 2 to 6 o'clock, four inches, and from 6 to 9 o'clock, from four to three, two, and one inch per hour—from 9 to 10 o'clock P. M., stationary—after 10, the water began to subside, and at midnight had fallen two inches. At Wheeling, one hundred and twenty miles below Pittsburgh, the water was at its height about 4 o'clock on Sunday morning, the 12th day of February, and began to subside at 5 o'clock, being thirty-one hours after it was at its height at Pittsburgh. It was here four feet and six inches higher than at any former flood, since that of 1784; and about forty-eight feet above low water mark. Its rate of rising, for six or eight hours before it reached its full height, was a little less than at Pittsburgh, or about six or eight inches per hour. At Marietta, eighty miles below Wheeling, the river began rising on Thursday, the 13th, at 12 o'clock noon. While the water was confined within the banks, it rose from eight to twelve inches per hour—after it burst these barriers, which was on Friday morning, it continued to rise, very regularly, four inches per hour until Saturday at midnight; from that time to Sunday at midnight, it rose three inches per hour. From thence to Monday, at 10 o'clock, or for the last ten hours, it rose from two to one inches per hour, until it finally ceased rising. In the afternoon of Monday, it began falling very slowly, and by the next day at noon, had fallen only twenty-four inches. The whole rise, above



low water mark at Marietta, was fifty feet ; and five feet three inches higher than at any former flood since the settlement of the town. Its more gradual rise at this place than at Wheeling is doubtless owing to a greater width of bottom lands, and a much less rapid inclination of the bed of the river. The increased altitude was caused by the vast accumulation of water rushing in from all the tributary streams, on its northern and southern shores from the Muskingum upward. These being filled to overflowing added power and strength to the mighty torrent at every step.

In Cincinnati, the water was at its greatest altitude on Saturday, the 18th, in the morning ; and was sixty feet above low water mark at Louisville, Ky., on Sunday evening following ; proving that the current in the Ohio, when at its height, traveled at the rate of one hundred miles in twenty-four hours, or not far from four miles per hour. From the continued rains, the waters returned within their banks at a very slow pace. At Marietta, the river was over the banks for nine days ; and at Cincinnati, and the country below, for a longer period. All the rivers in the State of Ohio were filled to overflowing, and especially several of those which discharge their waters into Lake Erie. The "Miami of the Lakes" was said to be twelve feet higher than ever known before, and caused much distress and heavy losses to those living on its borders. The rivers below the Little Kenhawa, discharging their waters into the Ohio from the south, were but little affected by the rains, either from their being no snow on the mountains at their heads, or more probably from the rain-clouds being attracted to other quarters. The back water in the Big Kenhawa extended to thirteen miles above Charleston, or seventy-nine from the mouth of the river. Kentucky river was flowed back sixty-four miles, and

many others in proportion to the inclination of their beds.

Through Saturday and Sunday, the 11th and 12th of February, the Ohio river at Marietta was literally covered with floating ruins; amongst them were many dwelling-houses of one and two stories, boards, fences, rails, timbers, stacks of grain and hay, and some wheel carriages. After the water subsided, the heads of the islands afforded the greatest scenes of wonder, and mournful evidences of the destruction and ruin occasioned by the flood. They were, many of them, for several acres in extent, heaped up to the height of twenty or thirty feet, with the ruins of buildings, fences, trees, rafts of boards, rails, barrels of flour, pork, furniture, farming utensils, carriages, store goods, some of them yet on the shelves, looms standing in the buildings with the web of cloth still on them—in short, everything that had been in use by the inhabitants was, more or less of it, found amongst these mountains of drift-wood. An island called "Broadhead," seated in the bend of the river, twelve miles above Marietta, afforded as wonderful a collection as any other in the river. It is very broad at the upper end, and each side, for some distance down, is thickly set with trees, which uniting at about the middle of the island formed a complete net of several acres in size, for the capture of any article floating within its bounds. On this island it was estimated that not less than thirty buildings were wrecked; amongst them some stores of dry goods, and a large quantity of flour. From fifteen to twenty men were engaged for several weeks in removing such articles as they could find, from amongst the piles of ruins. More stables and barns were floated by the flood than dwelling houses—the chimney in the latter buildings affording considerable protection, especially if placed in the center of the building. At Long-bottom, in Meigs

county, Ohio, a barn was floated on to the low grounds near the river, in which was found a living horse, safely standing on a pile of hay, or rather on the hay mow, to which his owner had removed him. It was ascertained that he had traveled in this manner more than one hundred miles.

During the whole flood, and for some hours before, the streets in Marietta were fairly covered with water; there was a continual rush of air from the earth below, forced up by the pressure and greater specific gravity of the water. It was not common to all the streets, but in particular localities, affording a novel and interesting spectacle, like that of the boiling of an immense caldron. Some wells were considerably injured from the water pouring into their mouths like the rush of a torrent and settling the walls. In others, the water continued to descend during the flood with a gentle whirlpool, finding vent in the loose earth and gravel below. Two others, standing about fifty yards from the bank of the river, and each forty feet deep, rose simultaneously with water in the river, until within ten feet of their tops—at this point the water remained stationary in the wells, until filled by the water from the river running into the mouths of the wells. This curious phenomenon was not peculiar to this flood, but has been noticed in former floods. Immense quantities of sand were brought on to many farms lying in low bottoms; and in some places, near the banks of the river, to the depth of two and three feet. Other were greatly enriched by deposits of mud, sand, and leaves, where trees or a bend in the river made eddy water or less force in the current. As the waters retired, the banks suffered immensely; being so long soaked with the flood, they slipped into the stream for several rods in width, and from a half mile to a mile in length. The farms, stripped of their fences, appeared one wide scene of desola-

tion, which several years of prosperity will hardly repair. A great many cattle, hogs, and sheep were drowned, from their owners thinking that the water could not possibly be higher than at any former flood; and therefore trusting their stock on elevations which had been a little above the water in the floods of 1813-15. But few human lives were lost, although often in great jeopardy; neighborhoods assisting each other in removing to places of safety, in many instances taking families from the roofs of their dwellings.

The most alarming period at Marietta was a little after midnight, at a time when the water was nearly at its height. A thunder-storm arose, attended with much rain and violent wind. The force of the wind, and the waves beating against the houses, surrounded by darkness and deep waters, for a short time appalled the stoutest hearts. Providentially the wind subsided in a short time, or the result must have been very disastrous. Considerable wind attended during the most of the time of the flood, and was the cause of many buildings being lost, that, with calm weather, might have been saved. From fifteen to twenty store-houses, barns, and one-story dwelling-houses were removed, some of which were discovered on the heads of islands many miles below, and part of their contents recovered—others were never heard from again. The fire-engine house, a small frame building, with the engine and buckets, floated off the night of the thunder-storm, and was taken up a few miles this side of Louisville, Ky., the sixth day after leaving Marietta; affording, with several other circumstances, good evidence of the progress of the current being not much over four miles per hour. I know several individuals living in the country, whose loss from the flood was from \$500 to \$1,000—and the whole loss on both banks of the Ohio, independent of the towns, could not have been less than

\$1,000 per mile, between Pittsburgh and Louisville—making an aggregate loss of at least *one million of dollars* to persons engaged in agricultural pursuits.

The remainder of this history is made up of extracts taken from the papers and journals published during, and immediately after the flood, and will be interesting memorials of this most destructive freshet, as detailing the disasters of particular towns.

*Pittsburgh, February 13, 1832.* "We have had a tremendous flood; and Pittsburgh and the towns in its vicinity have sustained great injury and loss of property. The rivers rose considerably higher than they have ever been known to rise before, being from one to two feet higher than they were in the flood of 1813. The water rose to so great a height, that many families on this side of the river, and *all* on the first bottom of Bayardstown and Alleghanytown, were obliged to abandon their dwellings. Several small houses were entirely carried away, and several islands down the river have been completely swept; their fences, horses, cows, sheep, hogs, fodder, etc., having been all cleared off together! We will not attempt to estimate the loss and damage sustained, for it is incalculable. Those acquainted with the localities of this city will be able to form an idea of the height and force of the torrent, when we inform them that we had to pass to and from our office in a boat—that it rose as high as Liberty street on St. Clair street; nearly up to Ferry on Fourth, and quite up to Second street on Wood—being two, three, and four squares from the bank of the river. Besides the loss of property, this inundation has caused a great deal of individual distress; and we are gratified to see a notice from the Mayor of the city, calling a public meeting of the citizens this evening, 'to adopt measures for the relief of the sufferers.'"—*Sylvester's office.*

"On Thursday evening last, in consequence of the immense rains that had fallen, and the rapid thaw, the rivers rose to an unusual height—many houses adjacent to the rivers became untenable. During the night, many families were awakened by the flood pouring into their dwellings, and many effected their escape at the risk of their lives. The shrieks and cries of women and children could be heard through the night. On Friday, the rivers rose with astonishing rapidity, and deluged the low parts of the city so suddenly, that the inmates of the dwellings were obliged to fly for personal safety, without stopping to save their movables. But thanks to an overruling providence, though the inundation was sudden and unexpected, no lives were lost. The untiring efforts of the benevolent were exerted to the utmost to secure the persons and property of their fellow-citizens. Great interest was excited with regard to the Aqueduct and Alleghany bridge. Thousands were attentive spectators to the triumphant resistance with which the former noble structure received the rude shocks by which it was assailed. The river rose more than a foot above the floor of the Aqueduct—large masses of drift-wood clustered round the piers, and pressed against its whole extent; but notwithstanding, it sustained the fierce ordeal without receiving any injury.

"It is impracticable to estimate the amount of damage, but it will not surpass the reality to say it exceeded two hundred thousand dollars. Several frame houses were carried away or displaced—bales of cotton, and cotton manufactory machinery damaged—lumber, dry goods, groceries, furniture, etc., destroyed or injured, and many brick houses cracked and injured, and great numbers of the inhabitants, by this sudden calamity, thrown on the humanity and charity of their neighbors."—*Pittsburgh Democrat*.

The salt-works on the Conemaugh and Kiskeminitas rivers, some distance above Pittsburgh, have likewise suffered severely—the loss in salt alone, exclusive of buildings and other property, being estimated at upward of \$40,000.

At Bridgewater, Fallstown, and Sharon, on Beaver river, Pa., the damage has been very considerable. These flourishing villages are said to have been completely inundated, and a great number of their buildings carried away. Big Beaver is reported to have risen fifty feet above low water mark; and the poor people residing on the banks have been stripped of everything.

At Steubenville, the river was higher by a number of feet than it had been within the memory of the oldest inhabitants, and much injury was done by the overflowing of the river bottoms, and the backing of water up the creeks. The lower street was overflowed to the depth of eight feet, but no buildings were carried away.

Warren, 14 miles below Steubenville, is said to have been deprived of nearly half its buildings, about sixty in number. Amongst those floated away, was a warehouse containing three hundred barrels of flour, which was safely lodged on Wheeling island.

*"The Flood."*—We mentioned in our last, that the water was, on Friday at noon, thirty-six feet above low water mark. It continued rising until Saturday night, and was then forty-nine feet above low water mark; and four feet ten inches higher than the celebrated flood of 1813. The effects of this great freshet are calamitous beyond description; all the low bottoms on the river were overflowed, and houses, barns, fences, cattle, stacks of hay and grain, etc., etc., were swept off. We can only give a few particulars. In South Wheeling, the water was several feet deep in most of

the houses, and there being a strong current, fifteen or twenty dwelling-houses, besides some other buildings, were swept off."—*Wheeling Gazette*.

*Gallipolis*, owing to the elevated situation of the town, has sustained but little injury; but the fine farms on the opposite side of the river have been entirely overflowed.

At Portsmouth, the damage sustained has been but little. The "Courier" says—that although the citizens residing on Front street were obliged to suspend business for a few days, yet the water never rose to a height sufficient to wet the goods upon the counters in the stores, and a considerable portion of the town remained entirely out.

A part of the village of Aberdeen, opposite Maysville, was entirely submerged, the roofs of the houses alone being above water; and the inhabitants were compelled to abandon their dwellings.

*Maysville*, owing to its elevated situation, sustained but little injury; the lower part of Water street was overflowed, and some of the citizens were obliged to move out of their houses.

The pleasant villages of New Richmond, Point Pleasant, Moscow, Neville, and Palestine, above Cincinnati, have been literally depopulated; and the editor of the "Ohio Sun," says—the loss sustained by the citizens of Brown county exceeds \$20,000.—*Ohio State Journal*.

*Cincinnati*, February 16, 1832. "The river still continues on the rise—it is undoubtedly sixty-four feet above low water mark. Yesterday it rose at the rate of an inch an hour. From 6 o'clock last evening to 6 this morning, we should think at the rate of an inch an hour. The "Amulet," from above, reports that we may expect twelve or fifteen inches more. It was falling above the Great Kenhawa, and was at a stand below. It rose several inches while the boat was at Maysville.



Yesterday afternoon, we took a boat, in company with a number of others, and rowed to the lower part of the city; the scene presented can not easily be described. It was painful to witness destruction on so vast a scale—some houses upset, others in imminent danger; the water reached the roofs of the more humble, and the windows of the second stories of good frame houses. Flat-boats loaded with women and children, furniture, and live-stock, were busily engaged in Race, Vine, Elm, and Walnut streets. The paper-mills appeared to be in the middle of the river, if river it could be called; skiffs were passing in every direction. We returned by way of Front street. The fine houses flooded, the lower part of the street deserted—and the second stories occupied of those nearer to Main street—boat loads of furniture from Water street formed a melancholy *tout ensemble*. Two of the workmen at Fift's foundery were drowned last night; they ran down into the cellar at the time the embankment gave way to save some effects; the water rushed in with such fury as to render escape impossible. There is a report of two or three children being taken from a floating cabin, but we can not trace it to an authentic source.

*Friday morning, Feb. 17.* "The work of destruction still continues—the river having reached nearly to lower Market street; when we issued our first circular, no one presumed it would reach much higher than Columbia street—but all calculations have failed. '*It is still on the rise, it is still on the rise,*' is all that is said or known. All kinds of craft are put in requisition—tubs, boxes, canoes, flats, 'dugouts,' skiffs, yawls, etc. The scene is as lively as a 'regatta' at Venice, though we may not boast of a Bravo, or an Antonio. We ought to except a baker who manages his *trough* with wonderful dexterity. We can not enumerate half the sad calamities rumor is bringing in. The river, as it sweeps by

with its accumulated waters, carries with it the wrecks of its desolation. A church passed the city with the steeple standing, bound for New Orleans we presume—a poor market. Excellent frame houses float along, with hay-stacks, rails, etc., leaving the farms stripped of every vestige of cultivation. The lower Millcreek bridge started yesterday morning. Hamilton and Colerain bridges have floated off, and the bridge over White river in Kentucky. The Kentucky river is backed up to Frankfort, sixty-four miles above its mouth. Newport, opposite to Cincinnati, was pretty well afloat—the water having reached nearly to the windows in the second story of the United States Arsenal. Covington does better, some dry land being yet discernible.”—*Cincinnati American—Extra.*

In Cincinnati, five hundred families, many of which have lost their all, are said to have been obliged to abandon their dwellings. The total loss of property is estimated at more than five hundred thousand dollars. In the interior of the State the damage sustained, although not so great as was at first anticipated, has been very great. The Great Miami, Scioto, Cuyahoga, Sandusky, Tuscarawas, Mahoning, Nimishillen, and other streams of less note, overflowed their banks, sweeping off bridges, mills, fences, and other property to a large amount, the bare enumeration of which would fill an ordinary newspaper. The damage done to the Ohio and Miami Canals was fortunately small.

*Louisville, February 18, 1832.* “We mentioned in our last week’s paper our fears that the Ohio would be as high as it had been known for many years. This anticipation has been more than realized; ever since the river has continued steadily to rise. There is more than ten feet of water in front of our office, in Wall street. The steamboat Nile is now discharging her freight in

the same street. It is generally thought that the river is now (noon on Friday), about two feet higher than in the great freshet of 1815, which is supposed to have been the greatest flood witnessed since the settlement of the country—the depth of water on the falls is estimated at thirty-eight feet—at the lowest stage there is but nine inches. During the fresh, great distress has been felt at Shipingsport; almost every house in town has been covered with water, and some were swept from their foundations before the inhabitants had time to remove their furniture.”—*P. Current.*

Of the amount of damage below the falls of Ohio, I have no authentic accounts—but as the bottom lands grew wider, the flood was less in height. The greatest amount of suffering and damage was on the river above the falls, the country being much more cultivated, and bottom lands narrower. When the flood reached the Mississippi river, it made but small impression on that mighty stream, elevating it but little, if any, above ordinary freshets. The preservation of the history of the late and former floods in the Ohio river, although it may not be productive of any real benefit, will yet be interesting to the curious and to the lover of the great operations of nature. By having a knowledge of the rise and progress of former floods, it may be useful on future occasions, enabling the inhabitants on the banks of the Ohio to make better and more early preparation to meet the destroying element. As to any certain calculation how long the river will continue to rise, by estimating the time from the inches per hour, and stating the continuance to be one hour for every inch, it is altogether uncertain, but depends more on the amount of rain that may continue to fall, or the state of the weather, whether thawing or freezing during the time of the flood.

A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF THE  
Settlement of the Town of Dayton.  
BY JOHN W. VAN CLEVE.

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PREVIOUSLY to the victory obtained by the army of General Wayne over the Indians, on the 20th of August, 1794, the settlements in the Miami country were few in number, and were necessarily confined within a short distance of Cincinnati, so as to be under the protection of the military force stationed there. Soon after John Cleves Symmes made his purchase of the lands between the Miami rivers, he made an agreement for the sale of the spot where Dayton now stands, to a company of gentlemen, who projected the settlement of the place, which they intended to call Venice. The project was defeated, however, by the subsequent hostilities with the Indians.

As soon as the extension of the settlements was rendered safe by the treaty of Greenville, the point at the mouth of Mad river again became an object of attention; and on the 20th of August, 1795, seventeen days after the treaty was concluded, General Arthur St. Clair, General James Wilkinson, General Jonathan Dayton, and Mr. Israel Ludlow entered into a contract with John Cleves Symmes, in which he assigned them

his claim to two ranges of land, extending from the Great Miami to the Little Miami, upon the condition that they should make three settlements within their purchase, one of which was to be at the mouth of Mad river. On the 21st of September, the company dispatched two surveyors from Cincinnati, one of whom, Mr. Daniel C. Cooper, was to run a road from that place to the contemplated location of the settlement, and the other, Captain John Dunlap, was to run out the boundaries of their purchase. The frontier settlement at that time was upon Mill creek, eleven miles from Cincinnati; at which point the surveyors separated, and Dunlap's party proceeded in advance, in company with a man named Bedell, who was about to establish himself about six miles west of the present town of Lebanon. Dunlap arrived at the mouth of Mad river on the 27th of September, and found six Wyandot Indians encamped there. Both parties were at first somewhat shy of each other, from having been so long accustomed to consider each other as enemies; but after a short time, they placed more confidence in each other, and became friendly, making various exchanges of knives, belts, and provisions. Mr. Cooper's party arrived shortly afterward, and then returned to Cincinnati. Dunlap's party were engaged about a week longer in their survey, during which time their camp was robbed by some Indians, who threatened the pack-horseman and hunter who had charge of it, but departed without doing them any personal injury. In the beginning of November, Mr. Ludlow, one of the proprietors, came up and commenced laying out the town, which he completed on the 4th, and it was then named Dayton. The proprietors had been offering inducements to attract settlers to the place, and had entered into engagements with forty-six persons, who had accepted their proposals, each of whom was to have an out-lot and a town-lot as a dona-

tion, and the further privilege of purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land, at a French crown per acre. A number of them attended on the day after the town was laid out, and a lottery was drawn, by which each intended settler had his particular lot assigned him. Only fifteen out of the forty-six, however, fulfilled their engagements, and became residents of Dayton. On the 1st of April, 1796, four of them arrived in a periangier, after a voyage of ten days, down the Ohio and up the Miami. Two or three others had arrived previously, and others soon followed; so that the number of those who entitled themselves to the donations and privileges offered by the proprietors was nineteen. Three of the number only are now known to be living.

About the time of the arrival of the first families in Dayton, settlements were commenced where the towns of Franklin and Miamiesburg have since been laid out, also near Middletown; and soon afterward some families established stations on Mad river and the Miami, above Dayton. One of them was soon abandoned from fear of the Indians; but the alarm soon subsided, and the people returned again.

The inhabitants of Dayton joined in raising a crop of corn in an open prairie adjoining the town, the first season after their arrival. Until that become fit for use, all their provisions of that kind were brought from Cincinnati, where they paid nine dollars for a barrel of flour, and one dollar for a bushel of corn meal; and it then cost two dollars and a half per hundred weight to transport it to Dayton. These disadvantages, and the other difficulties incident to the settlement of a new country, were gradually overcome, and the people began to acquire the necessaries of life from their own fields. The town was advancing a little in population and improvement, and the land in the neighborhood began to be taken up for farms. But it was not long

until a difficulty arose with respect to the titles, both of the town lots and the lands, which checked the growth of the settlement considerably. The settlers had all made their purchases, and expected to receive their titles from St. Clair, Wilkinson, Dayton, and Ludlow, the assignees of Symmes; but Symmes found himself unable to fulfill his contract, and make payment for the whole of his purchase. At length the government gave him a patent for the amount of land he was able to pay for, and took back the residue, which included the two ranges of townships assigned by him to St. Clair and his partners. When this became known, the people were much alarmed at the apparent probability of their losing their lands and improvements, and thus being deprived of the advantages they had anticipated in becoming settlers. They had ventured into the wilderness considerably in advance of the frontier—they had encountered difficulties without number, labored under many disadvantages, expended their limited means, worked hard and suffered many privations to provide homes for their families, which, after all, it seemed they would not be able to preserve. This situation of things, while it disheartened those who had already located themselves here, and caused some of them to abandon the country and remove to other parts where the same difficulties did not exist, discouraged other persons from coming, who would otherwise have done so. The title under Symmes had failed, and the government had not yet made provision for the sale of the land at the public land offices. The settlers had nothing to expect but loss and disappointment, and no inducement was held out to others to come under such prospects.

Affairs remained in this state for some time. At length, on the petition of the inhabitants, Congress, on the 2d of March, 1799, passed an act usually known by the name of the pre-emption law, by which all persons

who had made any contract in writing with John Cleves Symmes, previous to the 1st of April, 1797, for the purchase of lands between the Miami rivers, not comprehended in his patent, were to be entitled to a preference in purchasing the same lands of the United States, at the price of two dollars per acre, to be paid in three annual installments. This law, however, did not give sufficient relief, and only three or four persons accepted its provisions and entered their lands.

During the summer of 1799, some alarm was felt on account of the Indians, who, it was thought, seemed to be disposed to commence hostilities again. The people in the different settlements built block-houses for security, and one was built at Dayton. The Indians, however, remained quiet, and the fears of the inhabitants soon subsided.

On the 3d of March, 1801, Congress passed another pre-emption law, extending the privileges granted by the first act to all persons who had made contracts in writing with Judge Symmes or his associates, or had made payments of money for the purchase of lands, and longer time was given for substantiating claims and making payments to government. In addition to the price of two dollars an acre, it provided that the claimants should pay surveyor's fees and some other incidental expenses. The price which Judge Symmes was to pay for his purchase was two-thirds of a dollar per acre, and his assignees, St. Clair and his associates, were to pay the same price. The settlers who had bought lands of them had accordingly agreed to give a small advance upon that price; but there was probably no case where it was not less than two dollars per acre. The pre-emption law, therefore, although they were glad to avail themselves of its provisions, did not place them in as good a situation as they would have been in, if they had obtained their lands according to the terms of their



contracts with Symmes' assignees. And those who had entitled themselves to donations from the proprietors were obliged to pay for them at the rate of two dollars an acre. St. Clair and his associates, if they had chosen so to do, might have availed themselves of the law and entered the whole tract which Symmes had sold them; but in that case they would have had to pay two dollars per acre to the government, instead of sixty-six cents, which they were to pay Symmes. At the same time, if they had entered the lands they would have had to complete the titles to their purchasers at prices below two dollars an acre. They therefore determined to abandon their speculation, and accordingly notified the government commissioners of their relinquishment of their right, and then assisted the settlers who had purchased of them in availing themselves of the benefits of the law; upon which those who were desirous of doing so procured patents for their land, and some of them did the same for their town-lots, which, at two dollars per acre, with the addition of the fees, cost about one dollar each.

About the same time the government land offices were opened for the general sale of public lands, and the country began to fill up with inhabitants. The year 1801 may therefore be considered as the real beginning of its improvement, and consequent prosperity. During that year a list was taken of the free white male inhabitants in Dayton township, which then belonged to Hamilton county, and included the whole Miami country north of a line running a short distance below Miamiesburg. There were twenty-eight west of the Great Miami—twenty east of the little Miami, and three hundred and eighty-two between the two streams; making the whole number four hundred and thirty.

One of the first acts of the first Legislature of the State, which assembled in March, 1803, was an act for

the division of Hamilton and Ross counties. Montgomery county was established with a view to its ultimate reduction to its present size; but for the time was made to include all the country north and west of its present limits, extending to the northern and western boundaries of the State. Dayton was made the county seat. At that time there were only five families in the town—many of its first inhabitants having removed to farms in the vicinity. In the year 1805, the first brick building was erected, and the court-house was built in the following year.

In 1810, the population amounted to three hundred and eighty-three. During the war, which commenced two years afterward, the town became a thoroughfare for the troops on their way to the northwestern frontier, and a place for the collection and deposit of provisions. It accordingly improved much in population and business—particularly about the close of the war; and in 1820 the population amounted to one thousand one hundred and thirty-nine. Soon afterward the general breaking up of the banking business in the western country took place; the flood of paper money, with which the land was inundated, sunk away; the prices of every description of property fell, and great depression ensued in all kinds of business. All improvement ceased in Dayton, and the place remained at a stand, neither gaining or losing much in the amount of its population, until the commencement of the Miami canal gave it new life. The line between Dayton and Middletown was put under contract in May, 1827; and during that year building commenced with considerable activity, while old neglected houses were repaired and crowded with inmates, until dwellings could not be procured as fast as the increase of population required them. In May, 1828, a census was taken, and the inhabitants were found to amount to 1,697. In June, 1830,

when the census was taken under the authority of the United States, they amounted to 2,954, the gain having been 1,237 in a little more than two years.

Before the erection of the numerous mill-dams upon the Miami river, it was navigable during the principal part of the year for keel-boats; by which considerable business was done upon it, above Dayton as well as below. A few years before the war, two of the citizens of the town built a pair of keel-boats, with which they ascended the river as far as they could, when one of them was taken out and drawn across to the St. Mary's river, and then the one made regular trips upon the Miami, and the other upon the Maumee—the portage being about twelve miles across. Keel-boats continued to run until 1820; when the navigation was abandoned, except what was done in flat-boats descending the river in floods. On the 25th of January, 1829, the first canal-boat arrived at Dayton, from Cincinnati. She was appropriately named "The Governor Brown."

The post-office was established in Dayton in 1803. For several years, only one mail was received in a week, the route of which was from Cincinnati, through Lebanon, Xenia, and Springfield, to Urbana; thence to Piqua—thence down the great Miami to Dayton, Franklin, Middletown, Hamilton, and Cincinnati again; so that a letter from Franklin could not arrive at Dayton until it had passed through all the other places named. The first improvement upon that arrangement was a mail from Zanesville, by Franklinton and Urbana. That was succeeded by one from Chillicothe, which continued to be the principal mail route eastward, until a more direct one was at length established, by Columbus. In the spring of 1825, the first experiment was made in running a regular line of stages through Dayton. It commenced once a week; and even that was considered an undertaking which the country could not sustain,

and it was thought by many, that all concerned in it were throwing away their money. It was not long, however, before the public convenience required increased facilities, and the number of trips was increased to two a week, then to three, and at length a daily line was established.

The first court was held in Dayton in July, 1803. It was held in a house owned by the sheriff, who kept a tavern. The only store in the place was kept in the same house; which therefore served for court-house, jail, tavern, store, and dwelling. At the first term of the court, one civil action was commenced, and the grand jury found three bills of indictment for assault and battery.

The first newspaper printed in Dayton was called the Dayton Repertory, and was published by William McClure and George Smith, on the 18th of September, 1808. The first five numbers were printed on a *fools-cap sheet*, after which it was enlarged.

# A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF Washington County, Ohio.

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*Gentlemen of the Committee of Publication:*

IN compliance with your request, I have herein briefly sketched a description of Washington county. Its general features are common to all others bordering on the Ohio river; and its description, therefore, can afford topics of interest only in common with the rest; except perhaps in the extent and character of its ancient remains, and from its being "classic ground"—*The Plymouth of the West*.

The first purchase of land in the State of Ohio, after the Indian title was extinguished, was made by the Ohio Company. At this time, all the land north and west of the Ohio river was a dense forest, alike the home of the red man and the beast of prey.

On the 27th of November, A. D. 1787, Congress made and completed a contract with agents of the Ohio Company, by which they conveyed to the said company one million and a half of acres, for the sum of one million dollars; to be paid for in final settlement securities. The title thus obtained, a band of sixty men, under the direction of Gen. Rufus Putnam, mostly from New England, and under pay of the Ohio Company, landed at the mouth of the Muskingum river, on the 7th of April, A. D. 1788.

These were soon joined by more, insomuch that in the month of August, eight families were added to their number; and in the month of June next succeeding,

this number had increased to twenty. These hardy pioneers erected temporary buildings, and in the course of the first season, cleared away so much of the dense forests on the easterly bank of the Muskingum as to plant fifty acres of corn; and on this spot now stands the beautiful and thriving town of Marietta. This was the first settlement made in the State of Ohio, and that but *forty-nine* years since. Within that short period how changed the scene! Then the rude and comfortless wigwam marked the spot where now stands the smiling cottage or the stately edifice.

WASHINGTON COUNTY is forty-five miles long from east to west, and from twelve to twenty-two broad from north to south. It is bounded on the south and east by the river Ohio, on the west by Athens county, and on the north by the counties of Morgan and Monroe. In the early organization of the State, Washington, which is the oldest, comprehended within its limits the confines of what now compose eight or ten separate counties; but, by degrees, as settlements became more numerous, these were severally apportioned off, and its boundaries are, at this time, those quoted above.

The general appearance of the land is hilly, excepting on the borders of rivers, and other water-courses, where there are extensive levels, commonly called "*bottoms*." These bottoms are alluvial deposits, forming perhaps the richest soil known. Liable as they are to an occasional overflow, they are kept constantly fertile by the deposit which is left, and produce, without requiring either manure or a rotation of crops, an abundant harvest. The hills rising from these plains are generally steep, in some places declivitous, furnishing, in most instances, inexhaustable quarries of freestone. Veins of bituminous coal, of various degrees of thickness (from eighteen inches to ten feet), are found in many of them. Their summits generally are spacious

levels, on which fine farms are cleared ; the land possessing a rich soil, admitting of easy tillage. Indeed, that land which is the most broken and hilly is the best adapted to the purposes of a grazing farm, and to the cultivation of orchards.

The larger trees, which are generally found on the river bottoms, are the "SYCAMORE," (sometimes called "button-wood,") *Platanus occidentalis* ; "TULIP TREE," (commonly called "poplar,") *Liriodendron tulipifera* ; ELM, *Ulmus rubra* ; BLACK WALNUT, *Juglans nigra* ; and BEACH, *Fagus sylvestris*. The smaller trees, which are found on both bottoms and upland, are OAK, white, red, and black, *Quercus, alba, rubra, tinctoria* ; HICKORY, *Juglans squamosa* ; ASH, *Fraxinus* ; WHITE WALNUT, (or butternut,) *Juglans cathartica* ; SUGAR MAPLE, *Acer saccharinum* ; BUCKEYE, (or American horse-chestnut,) *Pavia Ohioensis* ; WILD CHERRY, *Cerasus Virginiana* ; LOCUST, *Robinia pseudo-acacia* ; MULBERRY, *Morus rubra* ; JUNE BERRY, *Mespilus arborea* ; WILLOW, *Salix nigra* ; PAPAW, *Anona tribola* ; DOGWOOD, *Cornus florida* ; GUM, *Nyssa Sylvatica*. On the south points of ridges, and in particular spots, where the soil is thin and barren, especially in the neighborhood of rocks, numbers of fine specimens of YELLOW PINE, *Pinus mitis*, are found, and are productive of value to the occupant of the land. The undergrowth is principally of young oaks, dogwood, hazel bush, spice bush, sassafras, (or saxifrage,) and the wild grape-vine which grows luxuriantly, ascending even to the tops of the loftiest trees, and forming canopies, festoons, and arbors of its spreading branches and bright leaves.

In early days, the forest re-echoed the bellowings and heavy tramp of the buffalo, the panther and the bear, and the howl of the wolf ; the fleet deer bounded, with timid foot, from the approach of the hunter ; the lofty flight of the wild fowl was no protection against

the unerring aim of the arrow, which, whizzing through the air, brought back its fluttering mark. The lifted head of the rattlesnake reared itself in the path of the traveler—and the red torch-light of the Indian fishing canoe glared on the light rippings of the water. But those days are now no more; the "*stamping grounds*"\* show where once the buffalo resorted; and the panther lives only in the traditions of old hunters. The arrow has given way to the rifle-ball; the rattlesnake retires to unfrequented rocks and sands—while the fishing canoe no more glides along, managed by the dusky form of the red man, but is guided by the dextrous boatman's pole.

The wild animals at present found in the county are chiefly those of the most harmless character, and which contribute to the sustenance of man.

Various kinds of fish glide through the waters. The largest are the black and yellow *cat-fish*, (which weigh from four or five to more than one hundred pounds,) and *pike*, of which some have been taken, weighing thirty or forty pounds. There are in the rivers, perch, sturgeon, bass, salmon, and the "buffalo-fish."

The *rattlesnake* is very seldom seen. It resides chiefly on the southern points of ridges, where the sun's rays have the greatest influence—and where the thin and barren soil, covering the ledges of sandstone, is most easily warmed. The *copperhead* is a snake more frequently met with than the former. Its bite is not as venomous and can be easily guarded against. It dwells chiefly about decayed logs, rubbish, piles of chips or shavings, under which it shelters itself during the winter. The copperhead is of a light brown color, with dark spots along the back, of a lozenge or dia-

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\* Small open areas in the woods, covered with grass and herbage. They are said to have been the favorite resting places of the buffalo herds.



mond shape, and is gray underneath. A traveler would be very apt to mistake it for a dry stick or twig, until it is roused. It has five or six very small teeth containing venom, placed on each side of the upper jaw; the rattlesnake has but two, but these are large. The copperhead never strikes its fangs above the ankle, in consequence of which the use of high shoes (through which the teeth can not penetrate) is an effectual protection.

The other snakes are harmless in their nature. They are the common *black-snake* (some of which grow to a large size, some with a ring around the neck, but most with none); the *striped* or *garter-snake*; the *milk-snake*, a small reptile, the back of which is ash color and white underneath; and the speckled snake, usually called the *house adder*.

The entomology of Washington county is interesting, and affords beautiful specimens of some of Nature's finest touches.

IRON ORE is found in detached masses very frequently. In the immediate vicinity of Marietta, particularly in, or close to the runs and streams of water, large quantities of this ore may be obtained. There is a water-course in the town limits of Marietta, called "*Platt's run*." Along the banks of this run, at a few feet below the surface of the ground, is a layer of blue clay, immediately beneath which may be obtained rich "*bog iron ore*." Specimens of *iron pyrites* may be had, imbedded in blue clay, at the distance of a mile from Marietta; and in "*Liberty*" township are found large quantities of it.

On the hills of Duck creek and Little Muskingum, (both of which streams are navigable to the Ohio,) iron ore may be found. Indeed, it is abundant throughout the county. The earth in very many places is deeply

colored by it, particularly side-hills and small elevations; nay, even the summits of many ridges, where the clay is of a bright red color, affording a very strong soil.

The bituminous substances discovered in Washington county are *coal* and *petroleum*, or "spring oil."

The COAL in this section of country is black, sometimes found possessing a high iridescent tarnish and resinous luster. Specimens have been seen by the writer, which contained many longitudinal veins—apparently impressions of long grass, buried therein, in the formation of the coal; generally, however, it is clear and black. Coal is found in almost every township in the county, in horizontal veins, or nearly so. In some places the veins are not more than eighteen inches in depth, in others ten feet. It is found chiefly on the borders of streams, particularly the larger ones.

PETROLEUM ("Spring oil" or "Seneca oil") has been known to the hunters and early inhabitants of the county since its first settlement. It is generally supposed to be the product of coal at a great distance below the surface of the earth. It is, as is well known, an oleaginous substance, possessing a strong disagreeable odor. This oil, by filtering it through charcoal, is almost deprived of its empyreumatic smell, and can be used in lamps, as it affords a brilliant light. It is very useful, and therefore much employed in curing the diseases of, and injuries done to horses. It is a preventive against the attacks of the "blowing fly;" and is perhaps the best substance known for the prevention of friction in machinery.

There are two gases, "*sulphureted hydrogen*" and "*carbureted hydrogen*," which rise copiously in some places from the earth, particularly on the banks of the Little Muskingum. The last named gas is considered so strong a mark of SALT, that many wells are sunk on

this evidence alone.\* When a light is applied, the gas inflames and burns for days, until extinguished by rain or a sudden gust of wind. There are some pools of water through which gases arise, and which consequently have acquired the name of "burning springs."

There are also many springs, the water of which is brackish, that are very much frequented by deer and other animals, wild and domestic, and which are commonly known by the name of "*licks*;" they seem to be slightly impregnated with saline matter.

ANTIQUITIES. It were needless for me to enter into particulars respecting those wonderful productions of art, found on "the elevated plain" in Marietta. In the early settlement of the country, Dr. Manasseh Cutler published an account of them. Dr. T. M. Harris, in an interesting "Journal of a Tour" through the western country, not only published an accurate description of them, but added thereto an exceedingly well-delineated sketch thereof, drawn from an actual survey by Gen. Rufus Putnam. In the "*Archæologia Americana*,"† there is a communication from Caleb Atwater, containing information respecting the ancient works at Marietta, received from Drs. Hildreth, Cutler, and Harris, as also from Generals Putnam and Edward W. Tupper. To these volumes, and particularly to the latter, I respectfully beg leave to refer you for full and satisfactory information. I here submit an imperfect sketch of their general plan.

At the northeast corner of the area, in which the town of Marietta is laid out, and upon the highest level, usually denominated "the plain," are situated "*the*

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\* "Observations on the Saliferous rock formation of the Valley of the Ohio."—*Silliman's Journal*.

† "Transactions and Collections of the American Antiquarian Society," published at Worcester, Mass., 1820.

*ancient works;*" the age of which, and the authors' names, are secrets hidden by the veil of time. They consist of two rectangular (or nearly so) inclosures compassed about by walls and ramparts without ditches. The larger of these *castra* (or, as they are commonly denominated, "*towns*," ) contains an area of about forty acres—the smaller about twenty. The walls, or ramparts of earth, are from six to ten feet in height, with a breadth of about thirty feet at the base. The larger square is divided on each side by three equal openings, or gateways. From the center gateway, on the side fronting toward the Muskingum river, there extends "the covert way," formed by two parallel walls of earth, 231 feet distant from each other, measuring from center to center. The height of the remains of the walls is 21 feet, and their breadth 40 feet at the base. The "way" is 360 feet long. Within the larger of the *castra* are erected three elevated squares, (level on the summits, and nearly perpendicular at the sides,) as also two mounds—four small excavations at equal distances, and a semicircular parapet crowned with a mound, guarding an opening in the wall.

Outside of the smaller of the *castra*, on the south side, stands a lofty steep mound, a right cone in its appearance. The diameter of the base, which is a regular circle, is 115 feet; its perpendicular altitude, at present, 30 feet—having, in consequence of the wash of heavy rains, and the trampling of sheep for many years past, lost about ten feet of its original height. It is surrounded by a fosse, 4 feet deep and 15 wide, defended by a circular rampart, through which is an opening, or gateway, 20 feet wide, fronting the smaller of the *castra*. There are several smaller mounds in different parts of the squares. The ancient well is still seen, although time, rains, and the ruthless hand of man have partly filled it up. A large number of fragments of ancient

pottery-ware, have been found near the larger town; this ware is composed of clay and fine gravel, having a partial glazing on the inside; it apparently has been burned, and was capable of holding liquids. In removing the earth which composed an ancient mound, in one of the streets of Marietta, several curious articles were discovered. They were found lying immediately above a skeleton. 1st—three large circular bosses, or ornaments for a sword-belt or buckler, composed of copper, and overlaid with a thick plate of silver. 2d—broken pieces of a copper tube, filled with iron rust, supposed to be a part of the scabbard, containing a sword completely oxidized. 3d—a copper plumb, weighing 8 oz., having a circular crease or groove at one end, for tying a string. The mound in which these articles were found was, as was the case with all the ancient works, covered with large trees, whose ages were ascertained (by counting the concentric circles in the stumps after the trees were cut down) to amount to between four and five hundred years each; at the same time there lay on the ground, beside them, trees which had grown, fallen, and rotted through age.

On the waters of Papaw, in the township of Liberty, are found numerous ancient furnaces, built of stone, with hearths of clay, which yet contain cinders and pieces of stone-coal, which have probably been used for heating and smelting the ores. Large forest-trees are growing immediately on some of the furnaces. In this neighborhood are found large quantities of iron pyrites embedded in blue clay. Within the space of a few miles, twenty or thirty of these rude structures have been discovered.

In many other localities throughout the county, tumuli are found, evidently the places of sepulchre of that remarkable unknown race who once inhabited the west.

One fact which seems to prove a great stumbling block to the progress of antiquarian research is, that no utensils or implements, wherewith these works could be erected, have ever been found. Their shape, and form, and materials, (whether iron, steel, or wood,) might possibly determine their origin. If they were made of iron, or steel, they must have oxidized and decayed; if of wood, they have moldered and crumbled to dust. In making a pair of mill-stones out of a block from a quarry in Salem township, there were discovered the marks of some ancient working of the same stone; and in penetrating to the depth of a few inches, there was an *iron wedge* discovered, firmly embedded in the rock. The stone, with this wedge in it, is now the upper mill-stone in Mr. S. Merriam's mill in Salem township, and can at all times be referred to.

The most important stream of water to this section of country is the Ohio river, which sweeps by the entire southern and eastern boundary of the county.

The MUSKINGUM RIVER (*Anglice*, "Elks eye," so called by the Indians, from its general transparency and beauty,) flows through the county in a direction almost north and south, dividing it into two portions nearly of equal size; it mingles its waters with those of the Ohio river, at Marietta, the county seat, where the river is about 250 yards in width. It is the most beautiful, as it is the largest river in the State, rising from many sources on the "portage summit level," near Lake Erie, watering a large tract of country in the center of the State, and thence rolling its limpid waves through a fertile valley, until it glides with noiseless union into the broad Ohio, the well named "*belle riviere*" of the boatmen. Its bed is composed chiefly of sand and pebbles, intermixed with beautiful red and white shells, scattered here and there throughout the gravel. Here, in one place, it flows over beds of stone-

coal of the finest quality, and there, in another, its waves wash some of the richest deposits of mineral salt that can be found in the valley of the Ohio. This stream affords to the inland townships an exceedingly fine access to the Ohio. Boats of the largest size are built upon its banks, and convey to New Orleans the produce of even the extreme northern limits of the county.

During the past year, the State government has commenced the construction of locks and dams, so as to make the river navigable at all seasons for small steamboats, as far up as Dresden, where it is united with the Ohio canal.

The **LITTLE MUSKINGUM** is a stream which rises in Monroe county, running a southwesterly course, nearly parallel with the Ohio, and but a few miles distant therefrom. It flows into the latter stream at the distance of about four miles above Marietta. It is about thirty miles in length, navigable for batteaux for some distance, and affording excellent mill seats.

**DUCK CREEK** is a stream of importance. It is about forty yards in width, and is formed by the junction of the east and west "forks," and also by a beautiful tributary, called "Papaw creek." This stream is about thirty miles in length, affording many mill seats, some of which are at present occupied. It flows into the Ohio, at the distance of about a mile and a half above Marietta.

**WOLF CREEK** is an important stream, watering a large extent of country. It is a western tributary of the Muskingum, confluent therewith at Waterford, about twenty miles from the mouth. Three branches (known as the south, west, and north,) form this stream. It is rapid in its course, abounding in mill seats, and dashes along a rocky bottom of secondary limestone.

The **LITTLE HOCKHOCKING** is a tributary of the Ohio, watering and enriching the western part of the county.

It is formed by the union of three branches; the east, west, and little west, all of which afford excellent mill seats. Its banks abound with the finest timber and beds of stone-coal. This stream is about fifteen miles in length, and flows into the Ohio, at the distance of about twenty miles below Marietta, in the township of Belpre.

There are many other smaller streams, which flow mostly into the Muskingum river, such as "Cats creek," "Bear creek," "Big run," "Rainbow creek," etc.

The agriculture of Washington county maintains a highly respectable standing, and numbers in its ranks some of the most intelligent men in the State. A society for its promotion, as also for that of domestic industry, has been in operation here for many years, and has effected much good, particularly in improving the breed of cattle and horses.

MARIETTA is built upon a spacious tract of level land, at the confluence of the Muskingum and Ohio rivers, in latitude 39° 28 minutes, and longitude 4° 20 minutes west of Washington city. Its name is derived from that of the beautiful, though unfortunate Queen of France, "*Marie Antoinette*," in compliment to whom it received its present appellation.

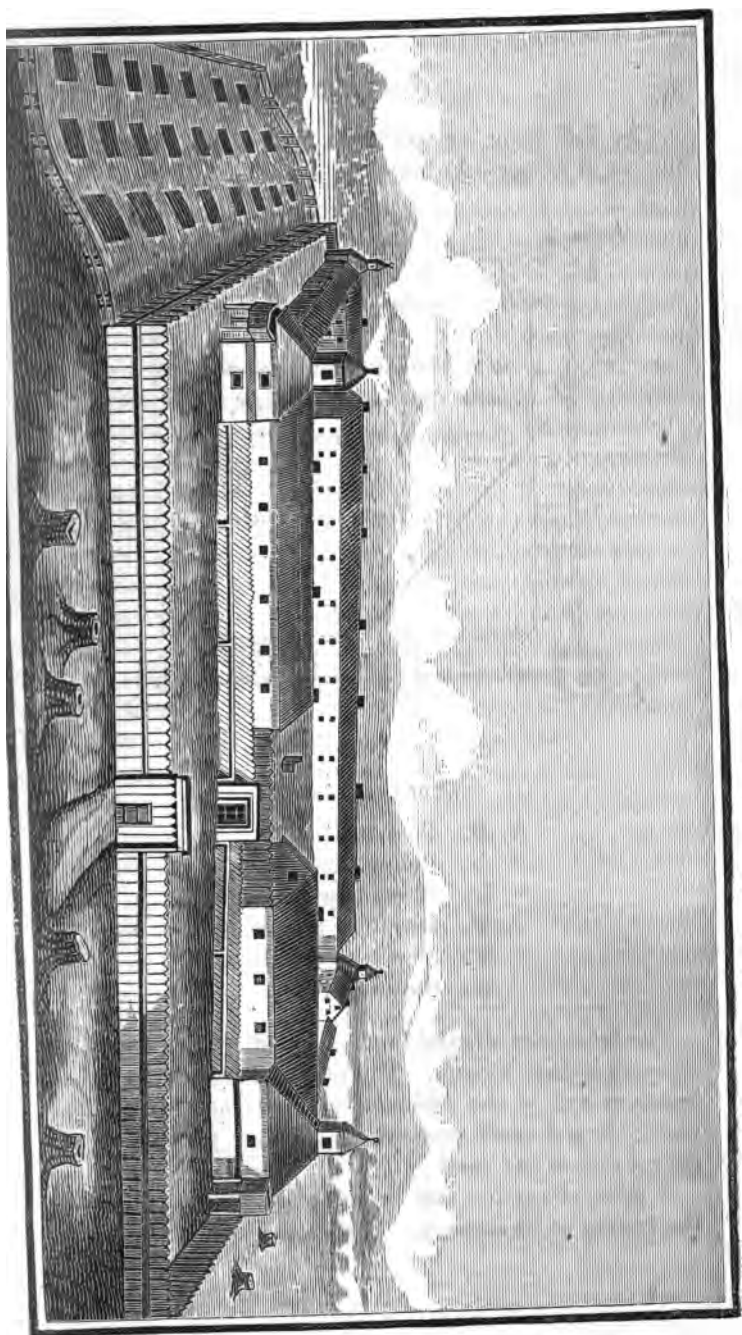
On the spot on which Marietta is built, the land is formed in three different levels. 1. "The low ground," bordering on "market square run," and which is used for meadow land. This ground is from 25 to 30 feet above the level of the Ohio river, at low water mark. It is consequently subject to occasional inundations, when a deposit is left which produces a luxuriant vegetation. On this level, no houses are built, but it is reserved for meadow and pasture land. 2. The second is the level on which the major part of the town is built; it is an extensive tract of bottom land, about 30 feet higher than "the low ground," and extends some miles along



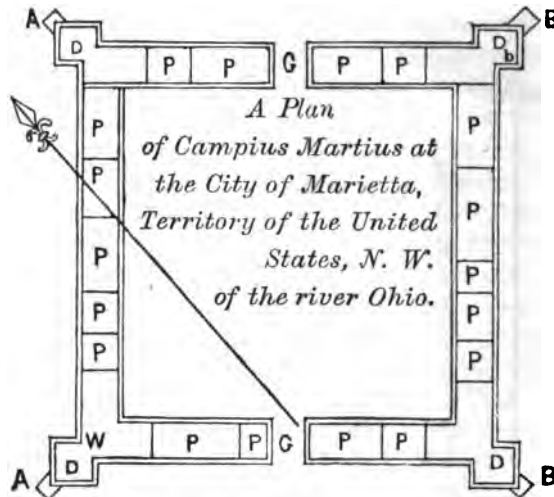
the banks of both rivers. 3. "*The Plain*" is the highest level, at the height of about 40 feet above that just mentioned, and comprehends an extensive area of surface. On the brow of this plain, was erected a stockaded fort, planned and built by General Rufus Putnam, and which was secure enough safely to defend the early colonists from Indian attacks. Time, and the "*reforming*" hand of man, have now destroyed it, although it lives in the memory of many of our citizens.

Annexed is an engraving presenting a view of the "stockade." It was drawn from a verbal description, but is pronounced correct by one who aided in the erection of the building, resided in it for some time, and has survived its existence.

It furnishes an interesting subject of contemplation, as being the earliest fortress erected north and west of the Ohio river by emigrants; and exhibits the possession of no small skill in strategy by the early inhabitants.



The following ground plan was found among the papers of General Putnam :



*Scale of 80 feet to the inch.*

#### EXPLANATIONS.

- A. B. Bastions.
- b. Belfry.
- D. Block houses.
- P. P. Dwelling houses.
- W. Watch tower.
- G. Gateways.

The levels are alluvial lands, formed by the deposits of some mighty stream. The first and second are the common soil of the Ohio valley, and the third, "the plain," is a deposit, containing a major proportion of gravel stones and sand.

A great attraction that is possessed by this place, is the beauty of its scenery. Within the town are elegant

dwelling houses, tastefully ornamented by handsome door yards, and extensive gardens of flowers, shrubbery, and fruit: the public buildings, also, are neat and tasteful. The town boasts a flourishing College, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church.

It is with pleasure that I advert to the general character of this town as being literary. The fearless and intrepid adventurers who laid out Marietta, who formed the infant colony, first planted civilization in Ohio, who braved the fierce attacks of savage warfare, and have left the peaceful possession of these lands to this generation, were men of letters. Their iron frames were but tokens of the minds within; and they but partially concealed under the garb of the hardy pioneer, and the warlike veteran, the manners and erudition of the accomplished scholar. While they have entailed on their descendants a happy and peaceful dominion in this beautiful spot, they have, at the same time, bequeathed to them their own noble spirit—a love of liberty and knowledge.

Very truly yours,

A MEMBER OF THE HIST. SOC.

A SKETCH  
OF THE  
TOPOGRAPHY, STATISTICS, AND HISTORY  
OF  
Oxford, and the Miami University.

BY JAMES M'BRIDE.

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HAMILTON, OHIO, Nov. 12, 1835.

*To the Secretary of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio:*

SIR: Herewith I transmit you "A Sketch of the Topography, Statistics, and History of Oxford, and the Miami University," in the county of Butler, which, please place in the archives of the Society.

Your obedient Humble Servant,

J. M'BRIDE.

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**TOWNSHIP OF OXFORD.** In the year 1787, John Cleves Symmes, of the State of New Jersey, purchased of the Congress of the United States, the tract of country lying between the Great and Little Miami rivers. In this contract, it was stipulated that one complete township of six miles square in the purchase should be reserved and applied to the support of an academy and other public schools and seminaries of learning. However, as no particular township was designated in the grant, John Cleves Symmes disposed of the whole for

his own private emolument, without making the reservation stipulated. Afterward, on the application of the inhabitants of the Miami purchase, the Congress of the United States granted the present township of Oxford in lieu of the one originally intended to be reserved in Symmes' purchase between the Miami rivers.

The township of Oxford (within which is laid out the town of Oxford, where the Miami University is established,) is six miles square, and situated in the northwest corner of Butler county, in the State of Ohio. It is bounded on the north by Preble county, on the south by Reily township, in Butler county, on the east by Milford township, and on the west by the State of Indiana. This township embraces within its limits a pleasant variety of hill and dale, "of babbling brook and glassy fountain."

On the first day of September, 1803, Oxford township was selected and located in lieu of the township which had been originally granted to the inhabitants of Symmes' purchase, for the support of an academy, and other public schools and seminaries of learning within that purchase. It is a part of the tract of country ceded to the United States by the Indians at the treaty of Greenville, in 1795, when the boundary line between the United States and the Indian tribes was established, by "a line commencing at the mouth of the Cuyahoga, and running up that river to the portage between it and the Tuscarawas, one of the branches of the Muskingum; thence down that stream to the mouth of Sandy creek; thence west to that point on Loramies creek, where the portage to the river St. Mary commences; thence westwardly to Fort Recovery, on the head waters of the Wabash, and thence southwesterly to a point on the Ohio river, opposite the mouth of the river Kentucky."

This tract of country was subsequently laid off into

ranges, townships, and sections, by the United States surveyors, and in the year 1801, the public lands lying west of the Great Miami river were first offered for sale at Cincinnati; at which time commenced the first settlements west of the Miami river. Between the time when those lands were offered for sale, and the time when the location of this township, for the purposes of a college township, was made, two and a half of the sections lying on "Four-mile creek" had been purchased by individuals. Section numbered twenty-five was entered by Col. Samuel Beeler; and the west halves of sections numbered 11, 14, and 24 were purchased by Col. Matthew Hueston. In the summer of 1803, Col. Beeler removed to his lands, and made the first improvement within what is now the township of Oxford; and about the same time Col. Hueston sold off the other halves of the sections which he had purchased in the township to James Adams, Zechariah P. DeWitt, Nathan Horner, and Thos. White, who severally made improvements, and settled on them about the same time. In the year 1806, Capt. Joel Collins purchased a part of Col. Beeler's section, and settled on it. Of these early settlers, Nathan Horner and Thos. White are since dead; Col. Beeler has removed to Illinois, and Collins, Adams, and DeWitt are still residents of the township. The location of this township for college purposes having precluded all further purchases, it consequently remained unsettled, with the exception of the families above mentioned, and some few squatters, who had settled along the bottoms of Four-mile creek—amongst whom were Robert Taylor, (called Buffalo Bob,) Edward Lytle, Henry Hall, David Lee, John Slack, a Mr. Perkins, and perhaps a few others, who built cabins and made small improvements, where they continued to live until the college lands were offered for sale in the year 1810, by the trustees

of the Miami University—when some of them became purchasers of the lots on which they had settled, and others abandoned their improvements, and removed to the “far west.” Of these squatters, none, I believe remain settlers of the township at this time.

At the time Butler county was organized, in the year 1803, what is now Oxford township was included in, and formed a part of Milford township; to which it remained attached until 1811—when, for civil purposes, it was organized and laid off into a separate township, by the commissioners of Butler county, under the name of Oxford.

The soil is alluvial, partaking of the general nature of the Miami country. On the surface is a stratum of black soil about one foot deep, then succeeds a stratum of loam or yellow clay of the depth of about four feet, when you come to a stratum of blue clay, intermixed with limestone rocks of a secondary formation, continuing down as deep as the earth has yet been penetrated. The wells which have been dug are generally about twenty feet deep, where good water is obtained in abundance. In the banks of the creeks and smaller streams, quarries of limestone are found, and one of a very fine solid rock has been discovered on the farm of Mr. Stephen Minor, about two miles northwest from Oxford; some of which stone, when burned, makes lime, equal, and superior in whiteness to Dayton lime. Along the creeks and ravines, and imbedded in the limestone taken from the wells, are found petrified shells, gray coral, or branches of trees petrified, and other marine remains. In the rooms of the Erodelpkian and Union Literary Societies, in the college edifice, may be seen various specimens of those petrifications and remains, which have been collected and arranged by the students.

**ANTIQUITIES.** Of those mounds and ancient works



common in the western country, which have so often been the admiration of the antiquary and the curious, Oxford is not destitute. On the north side of Four-mile creek, near the southeast corner of the township, on section numbered 31, township 5, of range 2, E. M., are the remains of one of those ancient works, generally supposed to have been constructed as places of defense by a people whose memory can only be traced by those memorials of their existence. Immediately above Griffith's mill, on Four-mile, is a remarkable bend in the creek, forming a peninsula, about sixteen chains across and twenty chains in length. Across the neck of this peninsula, is the remains of an ancient wall and ditch, commencing on the bank of the creek near the mill, and extending to the bend of the creek opposite. To the casual observer, the wall and ditch appear circular, but on close inspection it is found to consist of a number of straight sides, varying from one and a half to four chains in length. The extent included by the wall and the creek, contains about twenty-five acres. The banks of the creek where the wall commences and terminates, are about sixty feet high and very steep. Across the creek on the north is a low fertile bottom, and on the south, the banks of the creek are high and steep. The wall, which is eighteen chains in length, is made of earth rising about three feet in height above the natural surface of the ground, having a ditch three feet deep on the outside, making the height six feet from the bottom of the ditch to the top of the wall. The base of the wall is about thirty feet, and the ditch of the same width. In the north part of the wall is an opening or space twelve feet wide, having the appearance of a gateway. On the north, the bank rises abruptly from the creek, about sixty feet high and is upward of sixty rods in length; half way up this bank is a table or bench of level ground thirty feet wide hav-

ing the appearance as though it had been artificially constructed. From this bench, as well as from the bank above, is presented a fine view of the level bottom on the opposite side of the creek, and of the surrounding country. On the 19th of April, 1832, I made a survey of this fortification; the ground where the wall and ditch are, was then cleared and under cultivation. At first, the wall was so high and ditch so deep that the occupants could not drive their teams across them, consequently they plowed along the sides of the wall, and threw the earth into the ditch, which at present has considerably reduced their dimensions. Many years ago I examined this fortification, previous to the settlement of the country; the wall was then higher and ditch deeper than at present, and the whole covered with a heavy growth of oak timber. I then saw growing in, or near it, two or three bushes of cedar, the only ones of the species known to grow in that part of the country. On the opposite side of the creek from the fortification, and about a mile distant, near the road leading from Hamilton to Oxford, is a mound of earth, about six feet high, and two hundred feet in circumference.

In the University square at Oxford, near where the principal building is now erected, once stood a small mound of earth, about three feet high, and ninety or a hundred feet in circumference. It has been demolished, and the earth of which it was composed removed for some purpose, by the workmen who erected the building. It is to be regretted that this was done; it ought to have been preserved entire, with the natural forest-trees which grew on it, as a shady grove, in which the students might retire to study, or ruminate on the existence of that race by whom these ancient works were constructed.

**AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS.** The productions of the

soil, to which the inhabitants have generally turned their attention, are Indian corn, wheat, oats, rye (in small quantities) and barley—all of which succeed well. The soil is also well adapted to the production of grasses. One of the out-lots adjoining the town, which was cultivated as a meadow by Mr. Chamberlin, in the summer of 1833, produced five tons of good hay to the acre. The esculent plants and roots principally cultivated, are potatoes, beets, turnips, onions, carrots, cabbages, and other vegetables common to the climate; all of which succeed well, and attain to great perfection.

POPULATION. From the manner in which the college lands were first disposed of, it may reasonably be expected that it would not attract the attention of the first class of settlers, as to industry and enterprise. As no money was to be paid or security given, every one who thought proper could bid off a farm, and have the possession of it, at least for a time, without paying anything whatever, and afterward move off or remain, as best suited his convenience. Hence many of the indolent, and such classes of citizens as are usually found on a frontier settlement, crowded to Oxford at the first sales and became purchasers. They built their cabins of round and unhewn logs, with wooden chimneys; and cleared an acre or two of land adjoining their rude dwelling, which they planted with corn. Such settlers, however, in a few years became restless, sold out their improvements, and removed farther west; giving place to a more industrious and better class of citizens, who erected hewed log houses, with shingled roofs and stone or brick chimneys, and extended their improvements around their dwellings. Some of these have given place to other settlers, or by perseverance and industry, have substituted for their old dwellings the substantial and comfortable brick house, erecting good barns, planting orchards, and improving their farms with neatness and taste. It

is true, a few of the first settlers yet remain, and have brought their farms to the same state of improvement, and are now, in their old age, enjoying the fruits of their labor and perseverance. As already observed, until the year 1810, the settlement of Oxford township was confined to a very few families. Indeed, it did not begin to attract the attention of an industrious class of citizens until about the year 1815—when the value of the college lands began to appreciate, and from that time the township improved apace. The population of Oxford township in 1820, according to the census, was 1,658. And according to the census taken in 1830, Oxford township, including the village of Oxford, contained 2,928 inhabitants.

**VILLAGE OF OXFORD.** The village of Oxford, in which is established the Miami University, is situated in the county of Butler, in the State of Ohio, in latitude 39° 34 minutes north, and 7° 38 minutes west longitude from Washington city. It is distant twelve miles in a northwestwardly direction from Hamilton, the county seat of Butler county; thirty-seven miles in the same direction from Cincinnati; one hundred and ten miles westwardly from Columbus, the seat of government of the State of Ohio, and eighty miles eastwardly from Indianapolis, the seat of government of the State of Indiana.

On the 6th day of February, 1810, the Legislature of Ohio passed a law, by which the board of trustees of the Miami University were directed to cause the town of Oxford to be laid off, on the Miami college lands, at such place as they might deem most eligible, at which place should be fixed the site of the Miami University. In pursuance of the instructions contained in this law, the board of trustees, at their meeting in March following, appointed a committee of their body to make the selection, and cause the town to be

laid out. This committee proceeded, on the 29th day of March, 1810, to the Miami college lands, and after a careful examination of the whole township, selected the present site of Oxford for the location of the town. It is a short distance southeast from the center of the township, comprehending the southeast quarter of section numbered 22; the southwest quarter of section numbered 23; the northwest quarter of section numbered 26; and the northeast quarter of section numbered 27—being one mile square; on which they caused to be laid out 128 in, or town lots, and 40 four-acre out-lots, on the south of the in-lots. In July, 1827, an additional number of lots were laid out to the town, and in November, 1831, a further additional number of lots were laid off on the east of the former lots and north of the University square.

In the east part of the town plat is laid off a plat of ground containing forty-five acres, which is designated the *University Square*, and is reserved for the erection of buildings for the use of the institution—to lay out such gardens, avenues, and promenades as may be found necessary and convenient. In the northeast corner of the town plat is also reserved a tract of about forty acres, designed for a botanical garden; this space, however, is yet uninclosed, and covered with a growth of forest-trees.

Oxford is situated half a mile west of Four-mile creek, on an elevated piece of ground, about 80 feet above the level of the channel of the creek. The ground has a gentle declivity in all directions from the town, being about 50 feet higher than the surrounding country, which renders the prospect from the town (and particularly from the cupola of the college,) extensive and delightful. The lots in the town of Oxford are disposed of by the trustees of the University at public sale, in the same manner as

the lands in the township; only with the exception that the purchaser is required to pay the amount of the price bid for the lot—on which, being complied with, he receives a lease for ninety-nine years, renewable forever; subject, however, to the payment annually of a quit rent of six per cent. on the purchase price of the lot, in the same manner as the other lands in the township.

The first sale of lots in the town of Oxford was held at Hamilton, on the 22d and 23d days of May, 1810, when the lots then laid out of an uneven number were offered for sale. At this sale eleven in-lots and eight four-acre out-lots were sold. The in-lots at prices from \$16.66 $\frac{1}{2}$  to \$25.90 each; the four-acre out-lots at the rate of \$5.00 per acre.

On the 28th and 29th of August ensuing, a second sale of lots in Oxford was held at Hamilton, when the residue of the lots then laid out were offered for sale. At this sale only three in-lots and three out-lots were sold, at about the same prices as the first sales. At the present time 126 of the in, or building lots have been disposed of at prices from \$16.66 $\frac{1}{2}$  to \$110.00 each. The whole of the out, or pasture lots have been sold, at prices from \$5.00 to \$25.00 per acre; and of the in-lots, 33 yet remain in the market for disposition, at \$50.00 each.

During the summer of 1810, the tall trees which then covered the site of the town began to be cut down, and a few log cabins commenced. The first house erected in Oxford was built by Samuel McCullough, on lot numbered one, being the lot on which Capt. Joel Collins' brick house now stands. It was built of unhewn beech logs, and for several years was the only house of entertainment in the place. It has since been thrown down and removed. On a lot adjoining the public square, was shortly afterward erected a hewed log house by

William McMahan, which has also been removed several years since.

**POPULATION.** According to the census taken in 1830, the population of the village of Oxford amounted to 737 inhabitants.

**PRINTING-PRESS.** In the year 1827, the Erodelphian and Union Literary Societies of the college purchased a printing-press, and in June commenced the publication of a journal, entitled "The Literary Focus." It was edited by and under the superintendence of a joint committee of the young men belonging to each of the Societies; it was published monthly, in octavo form, of sixteen pages in each number. At the expiration of the first year, the form and title of the paper was changed, and published weekly, in quarto form, of eight pages each, and called the "Literary Register." The editorial department was under the superintendence of the Faculty of the college. At the expiration of the year the publication was discontinued for want of sufficient patronage, as well as want of leisure of the Faculty to attend to the publication. The last number issued bears date June 27, 1829. The press still remains in Oxford, and is kept as an office for job printing, and executes the printing requisite for the institution. A book-bindery is also attached to the office.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.** In the early settlement of Oxford, an association forming a Baptist Congregation was united, and purchased in-lot No. 126, on which they erected a neat frame building as a place of public worship. Shortly afterward a society of Methodists united and formed themselves into a congregation. They purchased in-lot No 43, in the north part of the town, and erected thereon a neat brick church. It stands on the west side of Poplar street. The entrance is by two doors on the east, the pulpit and altar are on the west end of the building, and has plain seats capable of ac-

commodating about five hundred persons. The first Presbyterian congregation was formed at Oxford about the year 1818, under the direction of the Rev. James Hughs, teacher of the grammar school. He continued to preach to them occasionally until the time of his decease, which happened in the spring of 1821, from which time they were only supplied occasionally by traveling preachers until the year 1825, when the congregation was organized in a more regular manner by Robert H. Bishop, D. D., President of the College, who continued for several years to preach to them in the college chapel. The congregation has recently purchased a lot of ground north of the University square, on which they have erected a large and elegant brick church. About five miles north of the village of Oxford is a very large and handsome brick meeting-house belonging to a congregation of the Associate Reformed Church, which was lately under the pastoral care of the Rev. Alexander Porter, and is amongst the largest and most respectable congregations in the State of Ohio.

**MIAMI UNIVERSITY.** The Miami University was incorporated by a law passed by the Legislature of the State of Ohio, in the year 1809, by which a board of trustees was appointed for the purpose of making arrangements preparatory to the organization and establishment of the institution. The township of land, denominated the Miami College lands, was then in a wilderness state, not only unproductive, but considerable expense must necessarily be first incurred in surveying and bringing them into a state of productiveness. The corporation had no funds, except those hereafter to be derived from the proceeds of the lands. The lands were not subject to be sold, but only the rents available as a fund for the support of the institution. Consequently, several years were necessary before the lessees could make their lands productive, and be en-



abled to contribute their rents to the support of the institution. In consequence of which, and other various and unforeseen circumstances, occurring during the early settlement of the township, several years elapsed before the board of trustees could direct their measures immediately to the purposes of education. However, as soon as the necessary funds could be raised, the board directed them to be applied to the erection of a building for the institution, and in the year 1818, a building of fifty-six feet by forty, and three stories high, had been erected and completed, designed as a part of a wing to a building to be hereafter erected. A grammar school was then established, and the Rev. James Hughes appointed teacher, which went into operation on the first Tuesday of November, 1818, and was continued until April, 1821, shortly after which Mr. Hughes deceased, on the 2d of May, and the school was discontinued. The number of scholars attending the grammar school was generally about fifty, and the course of instruction pursued principally confined to the Latin and Greek languages. During this time, the board of trustees directed their revenue, after defraying the expenses of the grammar school, to the erection of an additional building, and in 1824, a building sixty feet front by eighty-six feet deep, and three stories high, was completed, adjoining the former buildings, designed as a center building for the college. The board then determined on the organization of a college, and in 1824, Robert H. Bishop, D. D., of Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky, was appointed President and Professor of Logic, Moral Philosophy, and History; John E. Annan, of Baltimore, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy; and William Sparrow, Professor of Languages. And on the 2d day of November, 1824, the college was opened in the edifice which had been erected. The number of students attending the

first session was fifty or sixty, since which time, until the present, the institution has been regularly increasing in respectability and in the number of students. The number at present attending, including those in the grammar school attached to the college, is about two hundred.

UNIVERSITY SQUARE AND BUILDINGS. The public ground reserved for the buildings of the college is an oblong square twenty-eight chains and eight links in length, by fifteen chains and seventy-five links wide, and containing forty-five acres, situated in the eastern part of the town-plat of Oxford. The situation is elevated, descending by a gradual slope in all directions from the college, except on the west, next the town, with which it is on a level. The edifices at present erected for the use of the college, consist of a building sixty feet front and eighty-six feet deep, three stories high, fronting the south and north. The fronts are finished with a pediment, and a venetian door in the south front, with venetian windows in the stories above. The stories are each eighteen feet high in the clear. An entry or passage thirteen feet wide, runs from east to west through the building, and an entry twelve feet wide runs from the south front door to the other entry. The north part of the lower story of the building is undivided and fitted up for a chapel. On the west is the old building first erected, forming part of a wing. The design of the whole, when completed, and for which the board of trustees are making arrangements, is to have wings of eighty feet in length on the east and west of the main building, which will make the whole 220 feet in length. The entry or passage is designed to extend from east to west the whole length of the wings, which are to be subdivided into small rooms for the accommodation of students.

In 1829, another building was completed for the use

of the institution. It stands east of the main building, and is distant about two hundred feet therefrom; the intention of which was, that fire might not be communicated from one building to the other. It is one hundred feet in length, by forty feet wide, and three stories high—subdivided into small rooms, for study and lodging rooms for the students. A third building has just been finished, one hundred feet long, by forty feet wide, and three stories high, standing two hundred feet south of the building last mentioned. It has a hall or passage, running the whole length of the building from north to south; and is subdivided into fifty-eight rooms, now occupied as study rooms by the students of the Senior and Junior classes of the college—(Nov. 2, 1835.)

The trustees have it in contemplation, at some future time, to erect near the northwest corner of the college square, a neat building, to be constructed with a special view for a laboratory, and rooms for their library and chemical and philosophical apparatus. It has also been mentioned, at some future time when the number of students in attendance shall render it necessary, to erect a number of small buildings, one story high, divided each into two apartments for the accommodation of students. These buildings are designed to be placed about one hundred feet apart, in ranges through the grove on the eastern part of the college square.

The college yard is beautiful; however, it is to be regretted that at the time of the erection of the first building, all the forest trees were cleared off from around the site. Had a sufficient number of them been selected and preserved, they would not only have added greatly to the beauty of the grounds, but would also contribute materially to the comfort and enjoyment of the professors and students. Still, this has in part been remedied by since planting other ornamental trees in their room; but many years must elapse before they will be as large,

and present that beautiful appearance which the native forest trees would have done. Fortunately, however, the eastern parts of the college grounds yet remain in a state of nature. It is a beautiful shady grove, and when improved by proper trimming and removing the underbrush, it will make a delightful promenade.

The cupola of the college is elevated about a hundred feet above the ground, from which there is an interesting view of the surrounding country. Near at hand can be distinctly traced the course of Four-mile creek, which meanders its way through the valley, along which you can distinctly trace the gentle elevations of the hills for a long distance either way. The top of the college is also useful for a more important purpose. It is an observatory for the students, and who can say that some tyro, emulating the genius of Newton or Herschel, may not at some future time, from this very spot, discover new worlds, wandering in the void space, which have hitherto been unknown to the philosophers of the old world.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES.** The general management of the institution is under the superintendence of a Board of eighteen Trustees, appointed by the Legislature, from the different counties in the Miami country, who form the corporation. They hold their office for the term of nine years, and are divided into three classes. The term of service of each class expires at the end of three years; hence, one-third of the Board are appointed every three years. Their powers and duties consist in the appointment of a President, Professors, and other officers of the institution, prescribing their duties, the course of instruction proper to be pursued, and generally to direct in what manner the affairs of the institution shall be conducted. They meet at such times as they think proper. The Legislature fills all vacancies which may happen in the Board, and retains

the power of enlarging or modifying the powers of the corporation, as experience or a regard to the public good may require.

The officers of the University resident in Oxford, exclusive of the Professors, are a Secretary, Treasurer, and Collector. The Secretary holds his office during the pleasure of the Board of Trustees. His duty consists in keeping the books of accounts with the lessees, and other books relating to the finances of the institution, in issuing executions against delinquents, on the non-payment of their rents, and of attending the meetings of the Board of Trustees, and keeping a journal of their proceedings. The Treasurer is also appointed by the Board of Trustees, and holds his office for the term of three years. His duty is to receive from the lessees their annual rents, and other moneys becoming due to the institution—keeping an account thereof, and paying it over on the order of the Board. The Collector is also appointed by the Board of Trustees, and holds his office for the term of one year. His duty consists in collecting rents from the lessees, when they have not been paid to the Treasurer at the time required by law.

**FACULTY.** The present Faculty of the University consists of five Professors, and the Principal of the Preparatory Department, viz :

The Rev. *Robert H. Bishop*, D. D., President, and Professor of Logic, Moral Philosophy, and History, and *ex-officio* chairman of the Board of Trustees. Rev. *John W. Scott*, A. M., Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry. Rev. *Wm. H. McGuffey*, A. M., Professor of Philosophy and Mental Science. Rev. *Samuel M. McCracken*, Professor of Languages. Rev. *Alfred T. Bledsoe*, Professor of Mathematics. Mr. *William W. Robertson*, Principal of the Preparatory Department attached to the college. There is also, in addition, an Assistant to the Principal in this department, together with several

other tutors and assistant teachers. The Faculty hold stated meetings on the first Saturday of every month, and at such other times as they may deem requisite. At these meetings a monthly report is made, by every instructor, of the absentees and deficiencies which may have occurred in their respective departments during the month; which returns are put on file and preserved to the end of the session; also, the Faculty enter into a full and free conversation on the conduct and progress of the students generally, and if any one is found (all circumstances considered,) not making that progress which he might do, or not conducting himself with that order and sobriety which are becoming, information is immediately communicated to his parents or guardian.

GOVERNMENT. The government of the University is parental. The Faculty have no specific code of by-laws written down, by which the student is to govern himself; nor have they any official visiting, or any locking up rooms. The general principle of government and instruction is, that each student shall be moral, regular, and respectful in all his behavior, and shall be fully and profitably employed, and at all times submit implicitly to the course of studies which may be prescribed by his instructors. If a student is not, in a very few months, capable of demeaning himself with propriety and respecting all the rights and privileges of his associates, he is dismissed from the institution. It is believed that this rule of government suits the sons of farmers best, and tends to render the youth of the land capable of being useful members of our great and growing republic.

The whole course of instruction in the college occupies four years. In each year are two sessions of five months each. The winter session commences the first Monday in November, and ends on the last Wednesday of March. The summer session commences the first

Monday of May and ends on the last Wednesday of September; on which days the annual commencements are held, when regular diplomas are publicly given to those who have honorably and profitably passed through the whole course of study.

In addition to the regular recitations and exercises required in college, the classes receive lectures and occasional instructions from the professors, and have frequent exercises in declamation and forensic disputation in the presence of their instructors. In laying the foundation of a thorough education, it is thought necessary that all the important faculties be brought into exercise. When certain mental endowments receive a much higher culture than others, there is a distortion in the mental character. The powers of the mind are not developed in their fairest proportions by studying languages alone, or mathematics alone, or natural or political science alone. The object in the proper collegiate department is, not to teach that which is peculiar to any one of the professions—but to lay the foundation which is common to them all; and giving that furniture, and discipline, and elevation of the mind, which are the best preparations for the study of a profession, or of the operations which are peculiar to the higher mercantile, manufacturing, or agricultural establishments.

There are two general public examinations of the students in each year, immediately after the close of each session, commencing on the Thursdays preceding the last Wednesday in March, and the last Wednesday of September, and continuing daily (Sunday excepted,) till Tuesday evening ensuing. The examinations are conducted by a committee of the board of trustees. The candidates for degrees are also examined at the close of their course of study.

**PUBLIC WORSHIP.** Prayers are attended in the col-

lege chapel every morning and evening, with the reading of the Scriptures, when the President or some one of the Faculty officiates, and all the students are required to be present. They are also required to attend divine service in the chapel on Sunday, except such as have permission from their parents or guardians to attend at other places of worship.

**EXPENSES.** The necessary expenses of a student in the college may be estimated as follows, viz :

Board during college year, (40 weeks,) at \$1.50	
per week.....	\$60 00
Tuition fees.....	24 00
Washing bill, fire-wood, and candles.....	18 00
Shoe-blackening, contingencies, etc.....	20 00
Total.....	<hr/> \$122.00

The students provide for themselves bed and bedding, furniture for their rooms, fire-wood, candles, books, and stationery.

**STUDENTS.** The number of students at the present time in the college, including the preparatory department, is about two hundred.

**GRADUATES.** The whole number of students who have graduated at the University, up to the present time, is 149.

At the first commencement, which was held on the 27th day of September, 1826, the degree of A. B. was conferred on 12 students ; at the second, on 9 ; at the third, on 11 ; at the fourth, on 10 ; at the fifth, on 10 ; at the sixth, on 17 ; at the seventh, on 11 ; at the eighth, on 21 ; at the ninth, on 21 ; and at the tenth, on 27.

The great body of students who have attended the University have been regular and orderly in their deportment ; few acts of disobedience have occurred, and very few dismissals have taken place ; and in every sense of the word, they are promising young men, and



those who have graduated and gone out into the world, bid fair to be useful members of society.

REVENUE. The permanent revenue for the support of the University is derived from the college lands, which are leased out to individuals, who pay annually six per cent. on the amount of the purchase money of their lots. The lands and lots heretofore disposed of produce an annual revenue of..... \$5,302 88

Thirty-three lots in the town of Oxford yet remain to be disposed of, which, when sold, will probably yield an additional revenue of 99 00

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Making an annual permanent revenue of ..... \$5,401 88

To which add the revenue arising from tuition fees in the college and preparatory department, which may be estimated at about ..... \$3,400 00

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Making the revenue which may annually be calculated upon to support the institution amount to ..... \$8,801 88

According to the present organization of the college the annual expenses amount to the sum of ..... \$6,801 88

Which, deducted from the annual revenue, leaves a balance of ..... \$2,000 00

to be applied to the erection of additional buildings, increase of the library and apparatus, or such other purposes as the board of trustees may direct. As the number of students shall increase, the increased revenue arising from tuition fees, it is presumed, will be adequate to meet the expenses of such additional professors and teachers as may be necessary.

LIBRARY AND APPARATUS. The college library is yet but small; it contains, however, a number of old, curious, and very rare books, in addition to which are the

principal standard works, and particularly the circle of history is tolerably complete. In addition to which, the two literary societies in the college have, also, each a library, which are in fact the property of the college. Each of their libraries consists of about one thousand five hundred volumes. To these the respective members of the societies have access, under the regulations of the Society. The college library is accessible to the students under certain regulations of the board of trustees, and the professor of languages is ex-officio Librarian.

In the year 1825, the Board of Trustees caused to be purchased in London a philosophical apparatus which cost about one thousand dollars, which is deposited in the college, and since that time various appropriations have been made for the purchase of a chemical apparatus, which it is believed now renders the apparatus in those departments fully adequate to all the purposes required.

**LITERARY SOCIETIES.** Two literary societies have been formed and organized belonging to the University. The Erodelphian Society was organized in September, 1825, and has for its professed object the cultivation of science, eloquence, and friendship. The members are students of the Miami University, and in number about one hundred. They have a large room in the third story of the college building exclusively for their use, where they hold their meetings. It is fitted up in handsome style, and kept at all times neat and clean. The floor is covered with a carpet of the richest quality. On the east is an elevated stand for the chairman, and desks for the secretaries, and on the opposite side of the room is their library, containing about one thousand five hundred volumes tastefully arranged on shelves surmounted by a cornice, supported by Corinthian columns—the whole arranged in a style of neat-

ness and elegance rarely surpassed. The members of the society meet regularly every week during the college session, and spend from three to five hours in the investigation of subjects which have a bearing upon active life, and in applying the knowledge which they may acquire in such a way as shall be most likely to secure the great objects of their education. They have also made preparations for the establishment of a cabinet of minerals and natural curiosities, and have already collected a number of curious and valuable specimens. The Erodelphian Society was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in the year 1831.

The Union Literary Society was organized about the same time. Its object is similar to that of the Erodelphian Society, and it is in like manner composed of members who are students in the University. They have also a room in the third story of the college, fitted up with the same care and neatness of the other society. Over the chairman's stand is a good portrait of the Rev. Robert H. Bishop, President of the University, and in addition to their library, which contains about fifteen hundred volumes, they have cases in which is contained a cabinet of minerals and natural curiosities scientifically arranged.

The two societies hold their anniversaries on the day preceding the annual commencement of the college, at which time they invite some individual of distinguished talents to deliver an address.

**FUTURE PROSPECTS OF THE MIAMI UNIVERSITY.** At the time of the incorporation of the University, the lands from which the revenue for its support was to be derived were in an entire wilderness, hence several years must necessarily elapse before the board of trustees could have the lands brought into a state of productiveness, and accumulate a fund for the erection of a suit-

able building, in which to commence the operations of the institution. Other unfavorable circumstances also retarded its advancement. The contest relative to the site of the institution was agitated for several years, which, of itself had a tendency to retard the settlement and improvement of the township, and consequently prolonged the time, at which the trustees were enabled to accomplish the object for which they were appointed. But so soon as these difficulties were surmounted, the prospects of the institution began gradually to brighten, and since the opening of the college in 1824, it has been increasing in respectability and number of students with a gradual but steady progress; and we may reasonably hope that its progress will still be onward.

As the Miami country increases in wealth and population, an increased number of young men will be destined to receive a liberal education—education will no longer be confined to what has heretofore been called the learned professions; but will become the common property of the citizens. The farmer and mechanic will participate in its advantages, and it will be no uncommon occurrence to find in the workshop, or at the plow, the man who in his youth took his degree in a college. It will not render him a worse citizen, or disqualify him from pursuing the ordinary avocations of life; but, on the contrary, it will have an extensive influence in forming his mind, and in opening to him new sources of pleasure and improvement, and should he, in after life, be called by his fellow-citizens to perform any important duties in the government of his country, he will be better qualified to discharge with fidelity and correctness the duties which may be required of him.

# S U R V E Y

## AND

## Description of Ancient Fortifications

SITUATED IN BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO.

BY JAMES M'BRIDE.

NOTES of the survey of an Ancient Fortification on the north bank of Four-mile creek, in the county of Butler, and State of Ohio, situated on section No. 31, in township No. 5, of range No. 2, E. M. (a plan of which will be seen on the following page.)

Beginning on the north bank of Four-mile creek, a short distance above Griffith's mill, the bank of the creek rising abruptly from the water at this place to about the height of sixty feet, and which is marked on the subjoined plat by the letter A. Thence,

COURSES.				DISTANCE.
S.	60°	45	m'ts. E.	1.18
N.	69°	15	m'ts. E.	2.00
N.	54°	15	m'ts. E.	4.65
N.	19°	00	m'ts. E.	4.00
North				1.50
N.	22°	00	m'ts. W.	1.17
N.	50°	00	m'ts. W.	1.50
N.	50°	00	m'ts. W.	2.00

To a deep ravine descending N. to F. M. creek.

To the brow of the bank of F. M. creek.

Immediately above Griffiths' mill on Four-mile creek, in the county of Butler, about nine miles northwest from Hamilton, is a remarkable bend in the creek, forming a peninsula about sixteen chains across and twenty chains in length. Across the neck of this pen-

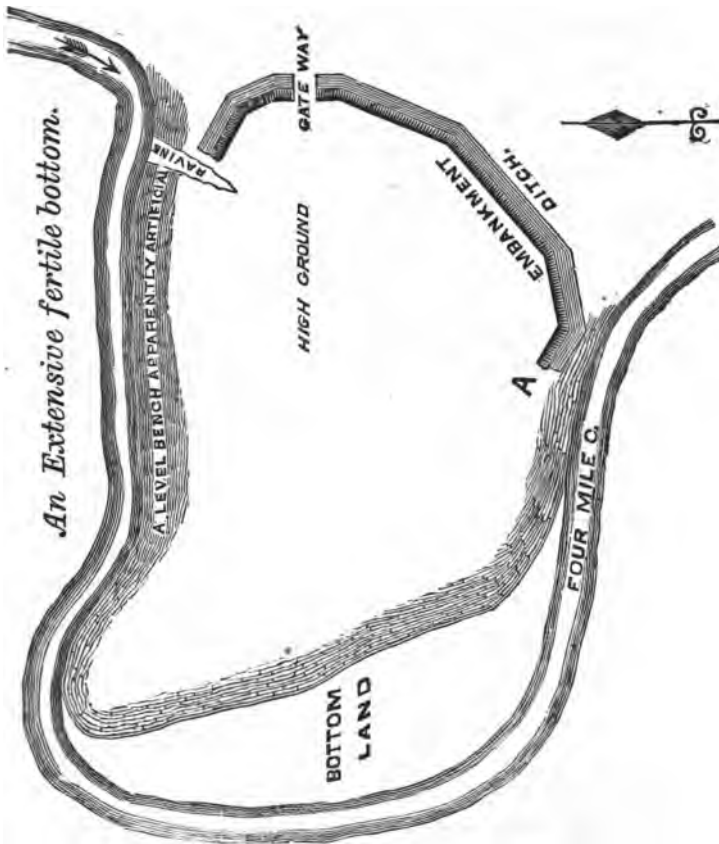
insula is the remains of an ancient wall and ditch, commencing on the bank of the creek near the mill, and extending to the bend of the creek opposite.

To the casual observer the wall and ditch appear circular, but on close inspection it is found to consist of a number of straight sides varying from one and a half to four chains in length. The extent included by the wall and the creek contains about twenty-five acres. The banks of the creek where the wall commences and terminates are about sixty feet high and very steep. On the opposite side of the creek, on the north, is a low fertile bottom, and on the south the banks are high and steep. The wall, which is eighteen chains in length, is made of earth, rising about three feet above the natural surface of the ground, having a ditch about three feet deep on the outside, making the height six feet from the bottom of the ditch to the top of the wall. The base of the wall is about thirty feet and the ditch of the same width. In the north part of the wall is an opening or space, twelve feet wide, having the appearance of a gateway. On the north, the bank rises abruptly from the creek about sixty feet high, and is upward of sixty poles in length; half way up this bank is a table, or bench of level ground, thirty feet wide, having the appearance as though it had been artificially constructed. From this bench, as well as from the bank above, is presented a fine view of the level bottom on the opposite side of the creek and of the surrounding country.

When the foregoing survey of this fortification was made in April, 1832, the ground where the wall and ditch are, was then cleared and under cultivation. At the time when first cultivated the wall was so high and the ditch so deep that the occupants could not drive their teams across them, consequently they plowed along the sides of the embankment and threw the earth

into the ditch, which, at present, has considerably reduced their dimensions. Many years ago I examined this fortification, previous to the settlement of the country. The wall was then much higher, and ditch deeper than at present, and the whole covered with a heavy growth of timber, principally oak. I then saw growing in, or near to it, two or three bushes of cedar, the only ones of the species in that part of the country.

On the opposite side of the creek from the fortification, and about a mile distant, on high ground, near the road leading from Hamilton to Oxford, is a mound of earth, about six feet high and two hundred feet in circumference, and in the creek bottom above, within a few miles are several mounds.



Plan of the Ancient Fortification, on the north bank of Four-mile Creek.

The following is a survey and description of an Ancient Fortification on fractional section No. 10, in township No. 1, of range No. 2 between the Miami rivers, in Butler county, Ohio, five miles below Hamilton, a plan of which will be seen on the following page.



Beginning at the most eastern angle of the fortification, at the point marked A on the following plan thence :

STATIONS.	COURSES.	DISTANCE.	REMARKS.
From A to B	N 44° 30 m'ts W	5c. 801.	To a gateway 50 lks. wide.
—	.....	50	Across gateway.
—	.....	4 69	To gateway at angle B.
—	.....	50	Across gateway to angle B.
— B to C	S 37° ..... W	4 75	To the angle at C.
— C to D	.....	3 50	On a curved line, being a segment of a circle, and having a ditch on the inside.
— D to E	.....	1 50	On a curve line, a ditch on the inside.
— E to F	N 54° ..... W	1 50	To the bank of P. run, a ditch on the inside of rampart.
— F to G	.....		Along the bank at P. run appearing to have washed away part of the fortification.
— G to H	S 54 ..... E	1 50	From the bank of P. run to angle H ditch on the inside.
— H to I	.....	1 50	On a curve line, a ditch on the inside of the rampart.
— I to J	.....	3 70	On a curve line, a ditch on the inside.
— J to K	S 36° ..... W	4 70	At angle K, where is the remains of an ancient mound or watch-tower.
— K to L	S 42° 30 m'ts E	10 70	To angle at L.
— L to A	N 42° ..... E	11 70	To the place of beginning at A.

The eastern part of this fortification is in timbered land; the western part is in cleared land, which has been under cultivation many years. On measuring the embankment at a place in the timber land, which appeared to have an average appearance of the dimensions of the work, it was found to be about fifty feet wide at the base, and three feet and a half in perpendicular height; hence the conclusion may be formed,

that when the embankment or rampart was originally formed, and graduated to a proper angle to support the earth, that it might have been about 20 or 25 feet wide at the base, and 10 or 12 feet in height.

The walls of the fortification, in the western part (around the circular parts more particularly,) appear to have been higher and more secure than the other parts. It is evident there was originally a deep ditch on the inside of the rampart at this place; and in the center of the most western circle is high ground, the remains of a watch-tower or mound, and also at the most western angle of the square, part of the fortification, marked K on the following plan, appears to have been a watch-tower or mound.

From the termination of the works at Pleasant run, the distance west to the present bed of the Miami river is about half a mile, the ground low, soil alluvial, and apparently of a recent formation. Doubtless the waters of the river one day washed the part of those works now bounded by Pleasant run.

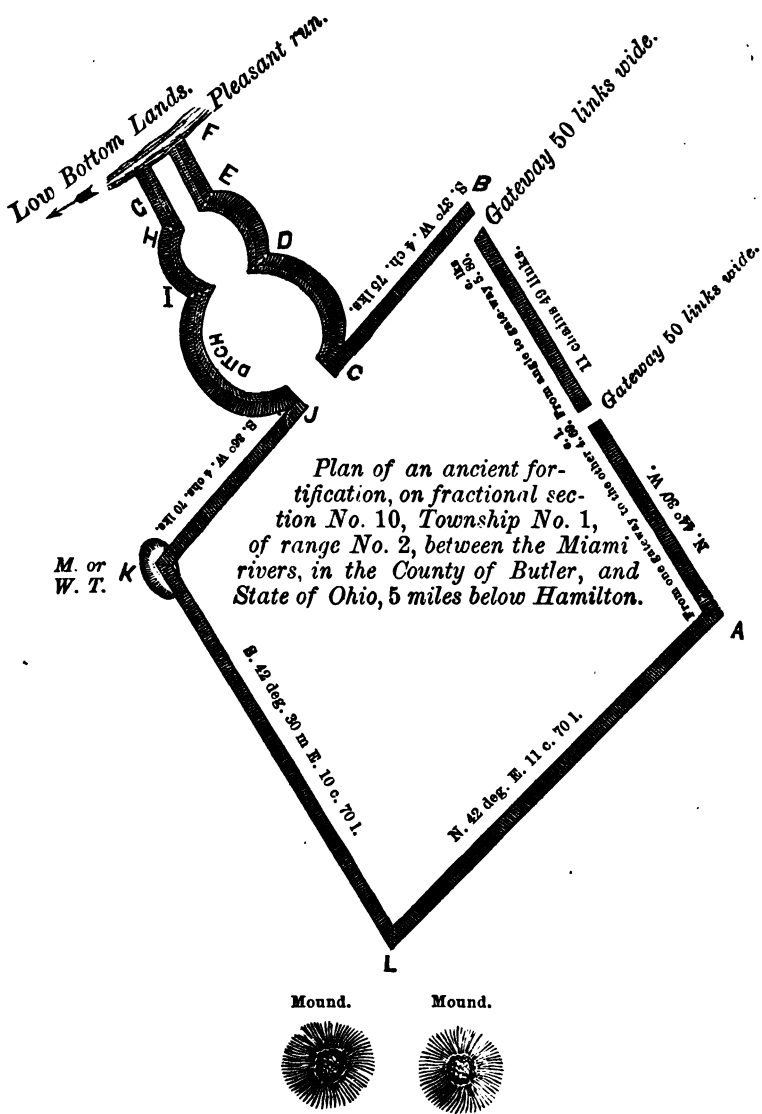
In several places in the western part of the fortification, the embankments are formed of large, coarse gravel, which make their appearance on the surface. In the timber land, the trees now growing on these embankments have the same appearance as those in the surrounding country. On the very summit of the walls, (as well as on the mounds,) trees of the largest size appear to have grown, arrived at maturity, fallen and decayed, giving place to others to supply their room.

Opposite the most southern angle of the square part of the inclosure, at a short distance therefrom, are two mounds; the most westerly one measures 271 feet in circumference at the base, and 15 feet in perpendicular height. On the top was the appearance of recent excavation, and the earth intermixed with common limestone. Bearing N. 76° E. and 135 feet distant, is

another mound, 315 feet in circumference at the base and 15 feet in perpendicular height. On the north side is an excavation made into the mound, which shows the soil of which it is composed to be similar to that of the surface of the surrounding country. A considerable quantity of stone has heretofore, at different times, been taken from the tops of these mounds by the neighboring inhabitants for the purpose of erecting chimneys.

Both these mounds are situated in a plat of timbered land, and the species growing on them of the same kind, dimensions, and appearance of that growing on the plain around them.

In the early settlement of the country, I am informed that an Indian, then one hundred and fifteen years of age, and the oldest then living of the seven nations who originally inhabited this country, was inquired of, particularly, respecting his knowledge of those ancient works—but he said his people had no tradition respecting them.



There is an ancient mound on the east bank of the Great Miami river on the land of Thomas Alston, about five miles below Hamilton. The river has changed its course at the place where this mound is situated, within the recollection of the old inhabitants, and has washed away nearly two-thirds of it. The remaining part is yet upward of fifteen feet in height, and from an admeasurement made at the time, it must have originally been four hundred feet in circumference, and twenty-five or thirty feet in height. It was inclosed in a fortification with a wall of earth, and a ditch on the outside of the wall. The eastern part of the fortification yet remains, the western part being washed away by the river. The ditch and its depth can be distinctly traced on the bank of the river where part of it has been washed away.

This mound was composed of rich mold, scooped, no doubt, from the surface of the neighboring ground. All through it are pebbles that have evidently undergone the action of fire. A skeleton was found nearly under the apex, and laid on the surface of the original soil. About two feet above it was a layer of ashes of some extent and four inches in thickness. One foot above this, and a little nearer the exterior of the mound, I discovered another skeleton much decayed; and still nearer the surface another, also very much decayed. Numerous others have been washed out by the river and picked up by the inhabitants. They have been discovered and taken up at different depths in the mound from the top to the bottom.

The neighboring inhabitants also tell of a copper band, with strange devices on it, as being found about the skull of a skeleton, and an excellent carved representation of a tortoise of the same metal, twelve or fifteen inches in length, dug up near the head of another. Both of these are reported by different and creditable

